

THE SANDMUTOPIAN

Our 10th Anniversary Year
1988-1998

GUARDIAN

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Flagellation Part II**

**Laura Antoniou
Seeks a Houseboy**

**Sybil Holiday -
Strict but Gracious**

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About the Cover:

Cloistered clergy flogged as a matter of faith and self-improvement. This woodcut, from Huntingdonshire in England dates from the 14th Century. It is just one of many illustrations in *The Illustrated History of the Rod*, by the Reverend William Cooper, written at the end of the last century.



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Letters to THE GUARDIAN ~Our Readers' Forum

Send comments, queries or criticisms to: Editor, c/o The Utopian Network,
POB 1146, NY NY 10156
or Fax: (516) 842-7518 or email: siradam@ix.netcom.com
Please include name and address which will be held confidential.

Dear Gerrie and Mitch:

I am enjoying reading the 10th Anniversary issue of *The Guardian*. I was introduced to the scene by Tony DeBlase, so seeing him honored in the pages of the magazine is a real treat.

Michael M.
Salem, OR

Kudos on this awesome issue, Sir. (#30) I have been familiar with your magazine and know two of the previous editors/publishers (Tony DeBlase & Joseph Bean), but have not been a loyal reader. When it comes into the leather shop I manage in Dallas I would check it out lightly and then move on.

Had a hard time laying this one down. The many articles on the mag's history reflect so much of the overall leather community's history!

Then, Part I of the "Flogging" article was tremendous. I am the 1998 Program Director for NLA: Dallas. We just recently had our annual flagellation workshop. Your magazine will be at this month's to make our 60+ members and guests aware of the great article. It is worded so well - many of my own thoughts but even as a writer (*International Leatherman* - feature articles, *MACH* & *PowerPlay* -erotic features) I have not been able to word it quite so well or easily understood!!! Anxiously awaiting the next installment! Thanks

Dean Walradt
TX

It might interest you to know that *The Guardian* has always been one of my favorite magazines, and the quality of your technical articles

was the standard I set as my goal in that section of *Leather Online*. It is difficult to achieve, but that's what goals are for.

Slakker
www.L LeatherOnline.org

Dear Friends,

We have heard that *The Guardian* have this 10th Anniversary, like our SM magazine for the noncommercial scene in Germany. Many congratulations and we hope that your magazine will stay alive for many years more. Maybe it would be fine to make a link exchange with our (German only, sorry) website:
www.schlagzeilen.com.

Greetings from Hamburg, Germany
Mathias Grimme

Dear Mitch and Gerrie:

You guys are doing a great job! The sampling of the "entertaining" responses to your survey were hysterical!! (Issues #28,29)

I enjoyed the article on fisting too - and I have good news for reader Larry O., who is searching for het vaginal/anal fisting videos. There is membership web site, run by FeISTyman: www.fistingsex.com. Membership gives you access to pictures, and you may be able to order videos, or at least network to that information. As a non-member, I have access to a message board, a trades section, and a personals section (pictures/videos don't interest me; finding a partner does!).

I've told novices that, no matter how esoteric they think their interest is, there is at least one other person who shares it; more likely,

there is a newsletter, a support group, and these days, a web site! . Despite that, I never really believed I'd find something that greatly interests me: het men who wanted to be anally fisted (finding men who want to try vaginal fisting isn't quite as difficult!). Surprise! I haven't yet found that partner, but then I haven't yet placed my ad!

Mistress Joanne
Chicago

I am the proud owner of every issue of *The Guardian* that has been published, so I have seen how different publishers have treated the magazine. It think all of them, in their own way, have done a splendid job. However, I am especially grateful that *The Guardian* continues to this day, so I reserve a special thanks to you. *The Guardian* serves a critical educational, informational and unifying role in the SM community. Happy Anniversary!

Paul,
CA

Dear Mr. Kessler:

I saw Issue #29 of your excellent publication and the fascinating cover story on the Marquis de Sade. Please allow me to commend you on your laudable work.

Probably more than any other writer, the Divine Marquis has proven a constant source of inspiration to my ideas and writing. I do hope my writing shows its debt to the Marquis' masterful pen.

I wish you continued success with your superlative magazine.

M. Orlando
NJ

The SandMUtopian Guardian #31

LETTERS re Guy Baldwin's article, "Unexpected Consequences" in Issue #30

Dear Mitch,

Very interesting. As the old symbol of the "Old Guard" gets increasingly anti-"lifestyle," I get increasingly curmudgeon-like.

The new "DS" scene has abusers in it? So did the old. So will the next. What other obvious conclusion can we draw? You might as well say that the Christian renewal movement that includes the so-called "Promise Keepers," has in it people who use that dynamic to impose abusive patterns on the non-consenting in their lives. Yes, I think that SMers would be far more likely to admit that *that* example is true, rather than admit that abusers are just spread through all populations, and sometimes find convenient ways to get around their responsibilities.

Laura Antoniou
NY

I find it strange that I disagree strongly with Guy Baldwin, one of the idols and icons of my BDSM life. (I had spent a long time in the dealers room following Guy Baldwin, lovingly caressing each toy he handled, and straining to hear wisdom drip from his lips at the Stonewall 25 Leather event in New York.)

Nonetheless, I believe that he is wrong here and I believe that he has fallen prey to a common fallacy in the BDSM community: that power belongs by nature to *either* the top or the bottom. He's mistakenly looking at the top side of the equation, worrying about how the presence of that much control can turn into abuse. (People who look at the bottom side talk about how the bottom is really totally in charge of the

scene.) Both of these groups are wrong because power is a living entity that flows back and forth between people, ignoring their station and chosen role.

I just finished cleaning up from a BDSM wedding at our house that consecrated the, "No-limits, No-rights, No-considerations, No-release," philosophy that worries Mr. Baldwin. I'm fairly close to the Bride and Groom and I believe that I can speak securely of the non-abusive nature of their relationship. However, this is a very powerful step that they took and those who looked on had a variety of reactions. One person commented that the entire ceremony was non-consensual because the slave agreed to no limits and no right to end the relationship. I also saw their vanilla ceremony and they both agreed to remain husband and wife as long as they lived and agreed to stay together through sickness and health, richer and poorer and all other conditions that might otherwise work to tear them asunder. They then called upon God to consecrate this agreement. I found it a strange dichotomy to have the concern about non-consensuality be within the BDSM portion which is not enforced by state law. No one present at the vanilla ceremony thought that it was an example of non-consensuality or was concerned by the explicit statement that the parties enjoy no right to leave despite the fact that the non-consensuality in vanilla marriages is enforced by judges, police officers, and politicians.

I know this couple and I know

that power flows in a healthy manner between them, no matter what the outside world perceives.

Nonetheless, I will concede that Guy Baldwin is correct in one thing: there *are* people who engage in BDSM who *are* abused and for whom the BDSM provides a smoke screen. So far in my personal knowledge, *none* of these people have been engaged in 24/7 relationships! (All of them have been of the short term BDSM-play types.) Now I'm not saying that those of us who do 24/7 are somehow holy and free of things that plague relationships as diverse as vanilla lesbians, Promise Keeper families, Jewish conservatives, and Christian liberals. I'm sure that there are abusive BDSM 24/7 relationships. I just haven't met any, yet. And if I do, my impulse will be to do the same thing I did when confronted with the abusive relationships of my vanilla friends: to offer them a place to stay and think through their choices.

The problem with Guy Baldwin's solution is that it does not honor that choice. I have heard all the rhetoric about how people abused become incapable of making a choice and must have a choice thrust upon them, but I frankly don't believe it. To believe otherwise is to rob them of their humanity and their right to choose.

However, when all is said and done, to stay or not to stay in the relationship is their choice and I honor their adult right to make that decision for themselves.

Carolyn
TN

Still More Letters

continued from pg 5

Dear Mitch and Gerrie:

My congratulations for taking *The Guardian* past the ten year mark with style and courage. They have shown the courage to print two articles by Master/slave couples, who both pointed out that the het Master/slave lifestyle was rarely supported — and often met with outright hostility — by the leather community as a whole. Now, the Editors continue that tradition of courage by letting Guy Baldwin state that Master/slave couples apparently suffer from high levels of abusive relationships.

Because Guy Baldwin is such a high profile, leather "resource," it makes sense that Master/slave cou-

ples with problems would gravitate to him in this way. Mr. Baldwin admits to having little knowledge of heterosexuals, other than through his psychotherapy office. I disagree with his conclusion that this blind spot somehow enhances his ability to understand the big picture. History has already taught us that lesson, and SM was labeled as a mental illness for many years as a result. The only folks who admitted having SM preferences, were the few patients exposing their souls on the psychiatrist's couch. Those patients were there in the first place because of severe mental problems. The doctors concluded that since it was a *fact* that every known case of SM was linked to mental illness, there-

fore it must be true that SM *itself* was a sign of mental illness.

Similarly, I can report to Mr. Baldwin, and to the readers of *The Guardian*, that the great majority of Master/slave couples live in healthy and satisfying relationships, often raising well adjusted children. And just like Mr. Baldwin, I too have seen an explosion of Master/slave couples "coming out" in the past two years. Most of *them* have healthy relationships.

We learned a hard lesson once before about the danger of reaching a conclusion based on a limited and self-selected sampling of a community. Let's don't do that again, please.

Michael Kraft
WA

From the Publishers

In this issue we complete Laura and Karen's search for a houseboy, continue Adam's "seminar" on flogging and begin Carolyn's "Eti-Quiz." We also have updates on legal cases we have been following and some new issues for your information.

We were surprised by the number of letters we received in response to Guy Baldwin's article, "Unintended Consequences," in the last issue. Apparently he "struck a nerve" with several readers regarding his concern about "abuse" in our communities.

We were amused by the number of readers who noticed and sent us the two-page ad for Winston cigarettes which used the image of dominatrix boots and a single lash (see pg 34). It is an example of both the increased frequency of BDSM imagery and dialogue in mainstream media, and

the involvement and active participation of our readers in the "life" of *The Guardian*.

This interest is also reflected in the number of articles that we receive every week, many from new contributors. In fact, we are developing quite a library of items from which we can draw. (We are not "complaining" — and please don't stop!)

On a sadder note, we regret that we have lost a valued contributor and a much respected member of the BDSM world. We were notified shortly before press time that Mistress KK has passed away at her home in California. We will miss her insightful and witty commentaries on the various aspects of BDSM that interested her as a professional. (See her article on Enemation in Issue 26 and on Adult Babies in 28)

Gerrie and Mitch

Update & Corrections

Setting the Record Straight on SS&C

Mitch:

A couple of comments on your editorial in issue #30, which I really liked. I want to correct a few points:

Safe, Sane, Consensual did *not* appear on the back of a float. It was the phrase that the organizing committee had emblazoned on a huge banner that hung over the door to the Commerce Department building where the Leather/SM/ Fetish conference was held on the day *before* the March [on Washington, 1988]. (I have a photo of this and it has also been published). And the same banner was carried the next day at the head of the Leather/SM/Fetish con-

tingent in the actual March. It had also been printed on T-shirts that were available for purchase at the rally and later.

I had been using the phrase, "safe and sane SM," to describe what *DungeonMaster* was all about for years. Just when the "consensual" got added is not fixed yet.

Some think it was used a year or so before the March in some GMSMA literature. That is entirely possible. Whatever its origin, it reached prominence at the March and has been the catch phrase ever since.

*Tony DeBlase
aka Fledermaus.*

Mitch Kessler comments:

In the 1988 Washington March and in the 1987 and '88 Pride Day

Marches in NYC, I was with the Bisexual, rather than the Leather contingent ...and never actually saw either the banner or "the float." I believe I first heard this particular Urban Legend from another marcher who was shuttling between the Leather and Bisexual groups in the '87 March. Later, as I remember, Barry Doug- las made reference to SS&C being a GMSMA thing. I'm really glad to get this one debunked by someone who actually KNOWS! Another sidelight more or less for your amusement ...for years I was arguing that SS&C ought to be "parsed" as two concepts, (Safe and Sane) + (Consensual) rather than three (Safe) + (Sane) + (Consensual). I'm glad to see I wasn't completely off my rocker. ♦

BDSM and Abuse ...

In the 10th Anniversary issue of *The Guardian*, you comment on the results of the Jovanovic case, the Leather Leadership Conference's statement on SM and abuse, and Guy Baldwin's article on SM and abuse.

As a Master to a 24/7 slave, I am very concerned about abusive SM relationships, and about educating both our community and the "vanilla" world that there is a difference between SM and abuse. As Guy Baldwin notes in his article, the area of Master/slave relationships is often at the heart of this debate, as this is an area ripe for abuse.

I believe that your general position on SM and abuse has been well documented in various issues of *The Guardian*. In the 10th Anniversary Issue, however, you comment on the Jovanovic trial and couple that comment with what I believe is a reference to the recent statement disseminated by the Leather Leadership Conference on SM and abuse. Both my slave and I are very concerned about the LLC's state-

ment on differentiating SM from abuse. Based on your statement (p.56) we are not certain of your position on the LLC's policy.

The LLC's policy hinges on measuring the amount of control retained by each party in the SM relationship. The policy poses 11 questions to be used in assessing whether an SM relationship is abusive — the policy states that a "no" answer to any one question may indicate abuse. It is my belief that by their very nature, the questions place almost all Master/slave relationships in the category of "abusive" because a slave retains little to no control in such a relationship.

LLC's intent is to place its "guidelines" in the hands of social workers and law enforcement officials. The LLC is asking for the endorsement of various leather organizations. My concern is that if the LLC's policy is widely endorsed, Masters and slaves, who often feel estranged from the leather community as a whole, will be more isolated and even endangered.

My slave and I have been talking

with the leaders of our local chapter of NLA in an attempt to clarify this policy so that it might be used for educational purposes, while not categorizing Master/slave relationships as abusive.

Master Jim
TX

Ed Note: We share your concern and will address this in future issues. We will post the LLC policy statement and one by the National Leather Assn. on our web.

...and a "Gotcha" from an observant reader:

I am enjoying the 10th Anniversary issue. I did find one small error, however. On page 6, under the heading, "What was the rest of the world doing in 1988?" is the following item: "Reagan beat Dukakis for a second term as President." Whoops!

Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980 and 1984. It was his *vice* president, George Bush, who was elected in 1988 by beating Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis. The rest of the article provides a fun trip down memory lane.

*Michael M.
Salem, OR*

Finding a Houseboy Part II

by L. Antoniou and K. Taylor

When we left our intrepid seekers in **Issue #30**, they had placed their ads and were starting to sort through the responses, including the one from the man who offered, "If I like you, I will take you to Lutece and give you many expensive presents."

Naturally, hundreds of people decided *not* to return the application and made our choices that much easier. But we were amazed at the number who were unsuccessful *before* getting the application.

The Unsuccessful Ones

We tossed out every offer to come over and fuck our brains out and every note from someone who offered money. That was easy. Then came the ones which seemed to show a lack of - how to say this - attention to the matter at hand: the people who sent e-mails which read, in their entirety, "im interested in yr ad, 6", 180, br, br, 9" send pic please!!!" There were a *lot* of them. Some mentioned dick size, some included unasked-for .gif files (most of them pictures of cocks); all showed such a lack of genuine interest that we wondered just how sexy *was* the phrase, "service-oriented, non-live in position."

Often, we heard from people online while we were sifting through the spam and sending out applications. The "Instant Message" feature of AOL made it easy for people to contact us instantly and occasionally pester us for information and attention. One man was especially rude, even after repeated messages to him indicating that we were not interested in *any* contact with him *in any way*. We had to threaten several people with a report to the AOL terms of service, which is a sad and uncomfortable position to be in.

In the end, though, we had our applications in hand, and we could sit down with our notepads and see who tickled our fancy and who just didn't seem to fit.

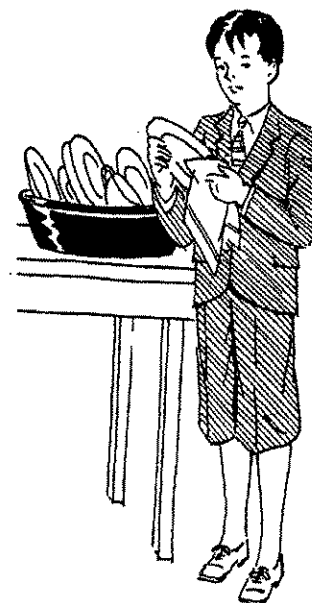
We tried to make the "no" letters as gentle and, in some cases, as helpful as possible. In one case, the applicant repeatedly spoke of his desire for a "dominant girl."

When we wrote, we politely suggested that his chances for success would increase if he used more appropriate language, like "woman, lady, Mistress." In other cases, the applicants did not fully complete the applications, leaving out significant information about their ability to handle household duties. We informed these applicants that we needed someone who could provide more attention to detail.

There were also some applications that gave us exactly the information we needed to know that the person would not be compatible. One applicant was only available during weekdays, when both of us work. Several applicants indicated that they would want constant supervision and to be reprimanded and punished for not

doing a good job. We wanted a houseboy who could work on her/his own, with punishments and rewards to come at *our* desire, when we were prepared to deliver them. Other applicants were very clear that they would only do menial tasks if there were to be a sexual reward. We were looking for someone whose need to serve was the primary urge, not the method for gaining sexual access. Some of the cross-dressers enjoyed dressing up because they found it humiliating to be a woman. We let them know their desires for such types of experiences were certainly acceptable, but that we would be incompatible.

Not all "no" letters were about problems with the applicants. In one case, we received a letter from someone who had been trained and was in service for ages with a Mistress of outstanding reputation and quality. This was an opportunity for us to admit to ourselves that we were not of the caliber that could give this person the type of attention and activity they deserved. If we did in fact live "Marketplace" lives, though, this one would be a winner.



**We were looking
for someone
whose need
to serve was the
primary urge**

The Interview

Who were the applicants successful enough to make it to the interview stage? There were six.

We decided that the first meeting would take place in a public space. Our choice was the cafe in A Different Light Bookstore in Manhattan. We knew that all of our interviewees were straight men, and we needed to see how they would react in a gay environment. After all, we are not lesbians living in a vacuum — most of our friends are homosexuals, bisexuals, undefined queers and transfolk. If the applicants were uncomfortable around people like this in a casual, public environment, we were not willing to have them in our home. For one applicant, we made arrangements to meet in Queens, and chose one of our favorite restaurants, which caters to a primarily Asian clientele. Again, this was an opportunity to see how well the person negotiated a potentially alien environment. That applicant was a no-show. Luckily, we had paper-wrapped ginger chicken to console us.

We did get one no-show at A Different Light, although we believe the person was actually in the bookstore. (Why? Call it "anti-gay-dar." There was a man whose body language, dark glasses, and constant glances in our direction made him a good bet.) Our assumption is that he arrived early to check us out, decided we were not physically attractive in the way he desired, and left without acknowledging our interview. The very least he could have done was come over and made up something like, "I've just found out I have three weeks to live and I'm going to live out my life-long ambition of kayaking around Nova Scotia. Nice ta meetcha."

One of the interviewees was clearly uncomfortable sitting and talking with us in a public space. When we had set up the interview, he had asked us if instead we could meet privately in his hotel room, or at a dark restaurant.

Whether this indicated discomfort with homosexuals, or because he wanted to meet us in an environment where he could be dressed more appropriately (he was a cross-dresser), or because he was not used to talking out loud about his desires, we are unsure.

The other two interviews were extremely successful. And after some discussion, we decided we would try using both of them. One was available during the week, the other on weekends. For us, the payoff would be getting some house-cleaning done by two men who truly enjoy providing that service. Both were very clear regarding their own needs for rewards, which were acceptable to the two of us. And, as an added bonus, we found them physically interesting and wonderfully different.

A Happy Ending?

We contacted the two successful respondents. Both were thrilled to receive our messages. And yet, neither were ever able to schedule time to meet with us again! We offered several possible dates, and encouraged each to contact us. One initially lost our phone number, and then apparently lost it again (and neither of us are sure we want a houseboy who can't keep his hands on potentially important information).

The second, a married man with children, needed to reschedule several times and finally, after a date had been set, called less than two hours before the scheduled time to cancel, citing a family conflict. We were both already ambivalent about working with a man who was not out to his wife, but the more practical problems around actually scheduling time exacerbated our discomfort, and we finally wrote him a "thank you but no thank you" letter. He was very understanding, and we are certain there are no hard feelings.

So, alas, after such time and energy, we are without a houseboy. Well, not exactly. We had a perfect houseboy drop into our laps. Literally. He's a very nice gay man with a desire to please and a deeply kinky personality, who happens to be compulsive about clean surfaces. We struck up a friendship that included his assistance in cleaning (very helpful at Passover!), and now we take him to dinner, dungeons, and shopping. He's certainly not going to be a regular person for that empty position in our lives - we've already moved on to being buddies, but for a few weeks, it really felt like we had our houseboy. And it was good.

Is there a lesson? Perhaps. To those looking for houseboys would include the warning that a perfect servant takes time to find. We both admit we are very picky, but also believe that making your intentions clear is critical for this type of arrangement. The application process was certainly interesting (and educational), and there was a bit of a thrill in reading the applications and setting up the interviews. However, it was the time we spent discussing our needs and desires that was the best outcome of the search. We were able to hash out a few troubling issues about time management and SM play and attention and all that important stuff. The windows, however, are still dirty. And we both know where the Windex is. ♦



Flogging ~ The Big Secrets

Second in a series

by **Mitch Kessler**
aka **Adam Selene**

The key to successful floggings is much more a matter of intent, and, believe it or not, *communication* than of any specific technique or expertise.

The flog-er wants to apply as much sensation to the flog-ee as the circumstances (and the partner) call for, neither more nor less. The operant philosophy is much like that of good oral sex. The active partner applies techniques that have worked in the past and introduces variations that instinct and experience suggest will heighten the desired effect, all the while remaining alert to the partner's reactions. Usually the flog-ee wants to keep the flog-er informed of the effects of his/her efforts -- hopefully without over-controlling the scene like this:

Higher Master ... Lower, Master

Faster, Master ... Slower, Master

Oh how I love it when you *dominate* me! ... which is sometimes called "Topping from the Bottom." This can make the flog-er feel like a "Whip Slave," but some like that. It allows them to dismiss issues of "abuse" and concentrate on pleasuring their partners and focussing on vicarious enjoyment. If the flogging is supposed to contain a polarized power exchange, if the issue of "who is in charge here?" matters, flog-ee-to-flog-er communication needs to be perhaps a bit more subtle. For example, partners can decide to use words as signals without regard to their everyday meanings. This is the original source of safewords. When "No, Please, Stop" actually means "Yes, that's right, stay right there!" ... then a word like "toothpaste" must be used to communicate the idea, "No, Stop, Please! ... goddammit!"

Still, a flog-ee expressing desire, discomfort, or even enthusiasm can appear, (if only to him/herself) "demand-

**...partners can
decide to use
words as signals
without regard to
their everyday
meanings.**

ing" or "insubordinate." Conversely, a flog-er who asks, "Are you all right, Darling?" may feel seriously less-than-dominant. Sometimes the smart thing is to acknowledge a mistake such as a too-hard or out-of-bounds hit. (With long experience "sometimes" becomes "often.")

Nonetheless, rough handling or momentary ineptitude does cause simmering resentment, which gets in the way of enjoying expertise and further, possibly rougher, handling.)

But apology doesn't project Dominant Dominance. "Whoops" may sound flippant. In this case, minimal recognition of the "ouchie" at the right moment (immediately) is every bit as defusing of hard feelings, as an apologetic explanation (there really isn't one anyway) later on. A brief touch to the "spot" can suffice. But a really painful misstep may call for an actual pause for the flog-ee to recover, and that long a break

might break the mood. Pretending to gloat over the pretend-victim's real agony, (if understood as play-acting) can bridge the recovery period quite effectively.

It can be helpful if both partners accept the Old Guard convention that anything said in a stern voice or which contains a demeaning epithet (such as, "Is there something you want to tell me, Punk?") may be considered Dominant-enough ... and conversely, preceded by, "Please," and a respectful title, is sufficiently-Submissive regardless of content. Hypocrisy is the grease that reduces the friction of human interaction.

Reading body language is largely a matter of sensitivity and experience, but some bodies are more articulate than others. Some flog-ees, pride themselves on maintaining an unruffled, statue-like demeanor no matter what effect the flogging is having. This can lead to the flog-er escalating the force of the flogging and, trying to get a reaction, gets a safeword instead. To help prevent this, the flog-er should be especially aware of "flinching" reactions, especially when the pulling-away motion precedes the actual impact either in response to the *sound* of the flog-

ger, or in anticipation of an established rhythm. Flinching is almost always a cue that the flog-ee is near her/his limit -- or that the flog-er is "throwing wraps."

"Moving away" is different from flinching. It is an involuntary, reflexive motion, either as the direct result of the force of the blow, or in direct response to the pain of the blow. By itself, it is a clue, but not a cue. It means that the flog-ee is taking a certain amount of punishment, and may be near her physical limit. This may be a hint to continue exactly as before; the flog-ee may have decided to go beyond his usual tolerance. It might also be a hint to make verbal contact. Sometimes in extreme stress, people go into an altered state of consciousness. Whether this is a "trance" or an "out of body experience" or "a benign shock-like state" is not so much the point as the possibility that the flog-ee is no longer able to take any responsibility for his or her own well-being. Now, the Top becomes, if not responsible, then at least accountable, for unintended marks, injuries, or hurt feelings. However, when the flog-ee voluntarily returns to the original position, it is usually the equivalent of a "thank you." The level might be maintained or even increased, with the proviso that, unless the flog-er chooses to end the scene quickly, the pace should not be increased. The flog-ee should actually get back into position before the next blow falls.

Another Big Secret

Most flogging literature deals extensively with the flog-ee's "limits." Flog-ers have limits, too. The belief that any Top or Dominant wants to thrash anything that stands up in front of them, and will continue battering away until stopped — is largely nonsense. It's one of those pervasive myths about BDSM with just enough underlying reality to keep it from being a wholly-fabricated malicious slander from the Vanilla Pulpit. Far more often, the flog-ee's desire to experience intensity ... and to want more ... exceeds the flog-er's willingness to inflict pain or do damage — or to be perceived as exceeding customary community norms. I call the mixture of ruthlessness and self-control a Flog-er (Dominant, Top, etc.) uses to overcome his or her own limits to meet the needs of their partner, "Resolution." For most people Resolution comes into play when the flog-ee begins to show real distress, or their body begins to show perceptible tissue damage. In other words: cries, screams and marks tend to evoke feelings of doubt, remorse and guilt, causing a flog-er to "ease up" sometimes to the dismay of the flog-ee!

If there is an answer to this paradox, it is the *très-*

Many flog-ers (and all of the good ones) have their own ... limits,

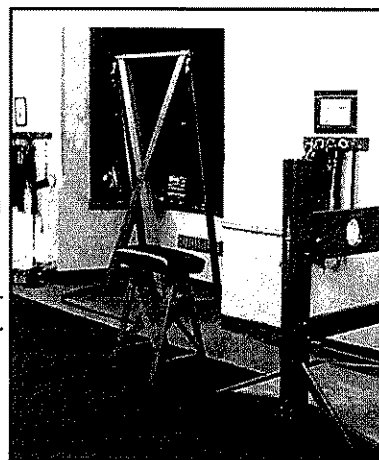
cliché "Trust and Communication." If a flog-ee says, "I want to continue until I safeword," or, "until blood flows," the flog-er needs to Trust that this Communication is true, and that the flog-ee will not "turn on them" for actualizing the flog-ee's own fantasy. If partners are going to play on this "edgy" level, each needs to be totally certain as to what is expected, what is tolerable, and what will be forgiven. As a rule, "When in doubt, Stop!" is prudent, appropriate, and almost always the correct choice. But when the flog-ee wants the flog-er to summon every bit of their Resolution, ignore the standards they would apply if the flogging were being administered to THEM ... and go to the flog-ee's limit or even a little beyond -- it is the flog-er's limits that are being tested.

Every flog-ee has limits, which if crossed constitute a violation of the Self, of consensuality, and possibly of the Assault statutes. Many flog-ers (and all of the good ones) have their own absolute limits, and the right to impose them without being considered UN-dominant, or "wimpy." The flog-ee who wants to go further than the

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Flogging Part II

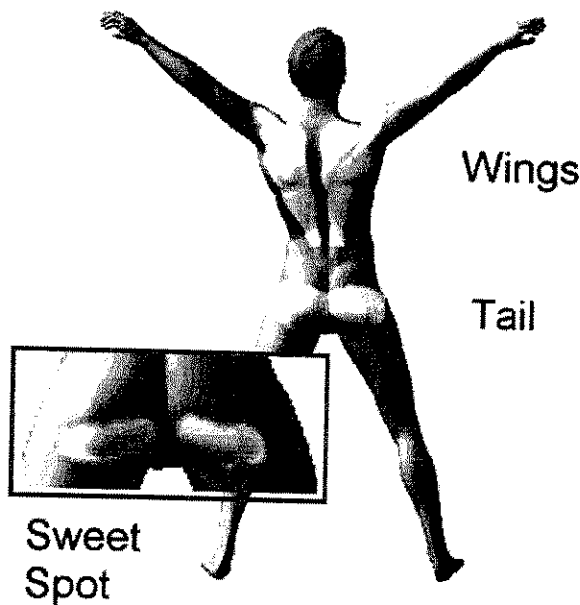
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flog-er is willing to, has a number of options: Articulating, working with, and overcoming the limit is one possibility. As the most common limits are the "marks or blood" line ... sometimes the answer is to simply hide the effect of the flogging from the flog-er by use of colored (red) lighting or remaining clothed. Sometimes the answer is an occasional exceptional experience with another partner.

Is this all risky stuff? Not suitable for untested relationships between novice players? Oh yes! Can it be done by well-intentioned strangers. Also, yes!

Where to Hit

Usually the target of a flogging is the deep muscle masses of the shoulders and buttocks. On occasion some flogging is done on the chest and abdomen. On well-muscled men this lets the flog-er and flog-ee look at each other. On large breasted women, it is nervous work, at best. While the theory that bruising breast tissue leads to



breast cancer was originated by amateur athletics' coaches as a reason to exclude young girls from "boys" sports ... it is now accepted as a probable potential possibility of a medical fact by one or more women. However, if the one woman who believes it, happens to be the woman you are flogging, the medical validity of this concern is completely irrelevant. If the one woman happens to be your local Arbiter of Politically Correct SM Practice and Belief ... well, how brave are you feeling this year? Less disputably, women's breasts are complex structures, with Suspensive

Ligiments, glands, and ducts, as well as a lot of nerve endings and lymphatic tissue. Walloping them, especially with massive floggers, (however soft and mushy) is something to be approached with a certain amount of caution ... if at all -- and preferably with foreknowledge of how the woman would feel about discovering bruises on her boobies the next morning. In general, side-to-side breast flogging has fewer unexpected consequences than upward strokes, and is ever more to be preferred over downward blows. By comparison, male breasts are essentially fat and muscle. There's not much there to break or go out of adjustment. Prudent flog-ers will make allowance for this difference.

As for abdominal flogging, under most circumstances it's not a great idea, unless the flog-ee has unusually well-developed and conditioned "abs." Boxers and professional wrestlers, for example, can take a lot of mid-section punishment. Almost everyone else should proceed with extreme caution, and eat lightly if at all for a while before the attempt. Even if internal soft organ damage is not an issue, reverse peristalsis, (projectile vomiting) ought to be.

In any event, the principal targets for flogging are the major muscle groups of the back, the latissimus dorsi, trapezius and glutei ... in other words -- the Angel Wings and Tail.

Where NOT to Hit

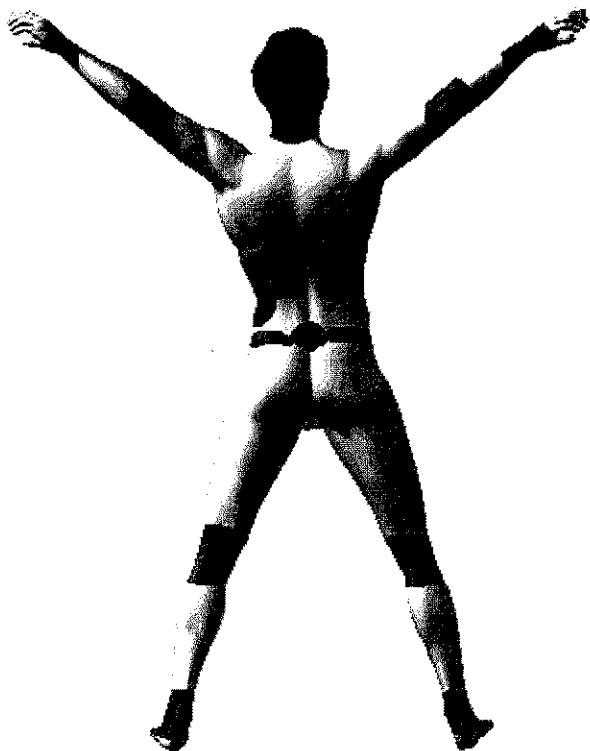
There are also areas you want to avoid. It should be obvious that the face is not a good place to aim a flogger; in fact any part of the head and neck can be considered off-limits. The elbow, and knee joints are off limits too. The hip joint can usually take a little knocking about. This is good because the butt is such a common target.

However, it's worth knowing if the flog-ee has any lower back or hip "issues" *before* putting a lot of side-to-side stress on the area. Just above the rump's round, on either side of the spine is the "saddle" area. It is rich in surface nerves, and the vulnerable sciatic nerve lies directly beneath it. Strokes here can be surprisingly, and counter-productively painful.

Another distracting blow is the "wrap" which is caused by faulty technique as much as by choosing the wrong target. A wrap occurs when the end of the flogger tress *turns* sharply *around* the body. Usually it is a stroke wrapping over the top of the shoulder to somewhere on the top of the chest, near the collar-bone. The sudden change of direction accelerates the tress tips, which deliver an astonishingly powerful, stinging blow. Astonishment impedes concentration and thereby diminishes pleasure.

Common wisdom is not to hit in the general area of

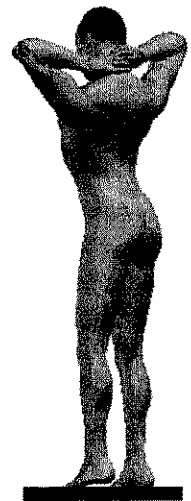
Do Not Hit



the kidneys. Even professional boxers put protective gear between the top of the hip and the bottom of the rib cage now. And while a big, soft flogger doesn't have the blunt trauma potential of a padded fist — why worry about internal organ damage? Less obviously, a little higher up, the lower half of the sides of the ribcage are not the best place to plant a distant carress. Again, not many blows will have the force to break anything, but the sideways compressive force can knock the wind out of all but the best-conditioned people. Anything which interferes with breathing can interfere with pleasure.

Some dedicated Flogging Bottoms will make life easier for their Tops by wearing protective gear against the blows they'd rather not take. The "kidney belt" once used by motorcyclists and now favored by construction and warehouse workers offers good coverage to the sides and over the "sciatic saddle." I once saw a ready-for-anything Englishman's rig for public play with pickup partners. In addition to a wide padded belt, it featured a thick leather strap over the spine, and a yoke collar (also padded leather) which covered the upper chest, throat, collarbone and tops of shoulders. There was a hard-leather codpiece to protect the groin, and everything buckled together. In addition to allowing this Brit to choose partners for good looks and charm ... rather than expertise — it also looked really good on him! Another self-protective

technique used by flog-ees is the standing position sometimes called the "Saxon Salute." The legs are spread approximately the width of the shoulders, the hands clasped behind the neck. In prisons the position was assumed when a guard entered a cell. The prisoner stood with toes touching a wall, fingers interlaced. (As a flogging position, the hands are arranged one over the other.) Besides looking extremely "butch," the large muscles of the back and shoulder and upper arms are well-presented, while the hands protect the neck and the forearms prevent wraps from reaching the collar area and upper chest.



Saxon Salute

Agony, Ecstasy and the Non-Runner's High

Flogging seems to promote more endorphin release for less actual stress than other exercises: punching, pinching or applying hot wax, for example. Endorphins are the opiate-like chemicals which the body releases in response to pain, stress, and fatigue. The classic example of endorphin release is the "runner's high," which was once called, "second wind." Typically this feeling of well-being comes when the body has actually endured a great deal of stress, and actually sustained (soon-healed) muscle damage. Endorphin release is not, however as strongly associated with pure discomfort. In other words, runners and other endurance athletes frequently experience great endorphin effects; dental patients may prefer laughing gas — although the marathon runner is suffering more, longer. The impact stress to bone and muscle seems to fool the body into reacting as if a great deal more pain and damage is occurring than actually is. This, combined

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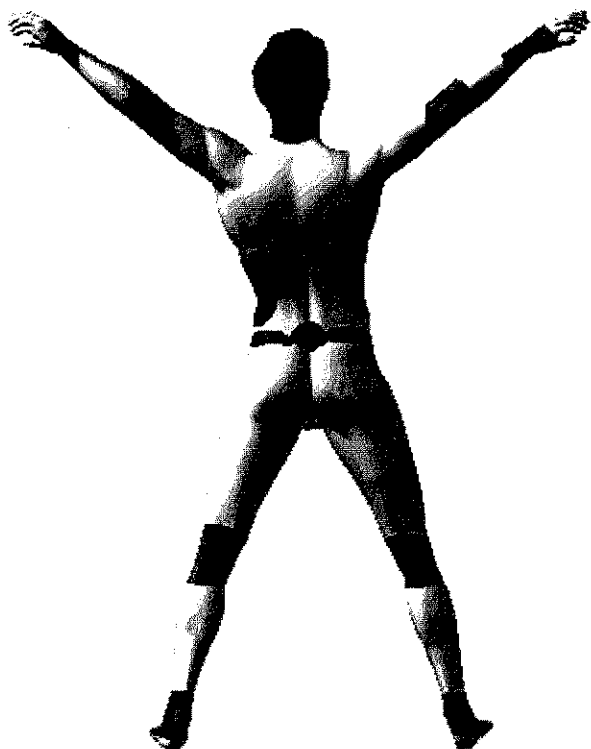
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Do Not Hit



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The Strict and Gracious Queen

by Sybil Holiday, CCHD

This article was presented as part of a program at the Society of Janus April, 1998.

The program emerged from the needs expressed by various novice female dominants for a new and different dominant role model. Those women understood what to do and how to act if they administered pain as punishment and their power stemmed from their role as disciplinarian, whether that role was part of a light-hearted fantasy scenario such as Schoolmistress and naughty student, or part of a real punishment scene between Mistress and misbehaving slave.

Lack of Female Role Model

But without such a pre-existing structure they seemed at a loss re-

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garding how to start a scene, how to demonstrate their power, or how to incorporate pain into their lovemaking. They also expressed concern that the dominant roles most frequently available to them came from male fantasies, and from pornography written mainly by and for men. I had faced a similar circumstance

when I entered the scene in the late 70's. The pornography was indeed mostly if not all written by men, and the only educational book I could find was *The Leatherman's Handbook*, by Larry Townsend ([1972]1997). A good introduction? Absolutely! Male oriented? Of course! *Coming to Power*, edited by the members of Samois (1981), a women's SM educational group, has proved to be very helpful, but at that time was yet to come. Another book I also wish had been around is *Miss Abernathy's Concise Slave Training Manual*, by Christina Abernathy (1996). I believe anyone who resonates with this article will find her book useful. By now much has been said and written by both men and women, and yet the situation seems to still exist for some people.

Back then, it appeared to me that much of what women knew about SM and power we derived from gay leathermen, British and Victorian literature, and male pornography. One common theme was training and punishment. In the gay leatherworld, for example, the "bad boy" — usually a masochistic bottom — made a mistake and the Top punished him in a manner that was always painful, often humiliating, and usually erotic for the Top, if not necessarily for the bottom. In this scenario, of course, the bottom only gets attention by screwing up, so his failures are rewarded rather than his successes, and he may begin



to feel he can get his needs met only by being bad. A Top who trains this way may end up with a bottom who can't do anything right unless he *doesn't* want to be played with, while the Top has always to be looking for mistakes, or has to make them up, in order to play with his bottom. (Guy Baldwin was the first person I know of to address these issues in print, in his *Drummer* magazine column, of August, 1988, later reprinted in his book, *Ties That Bind* [Daedalus Publishing Co., 1993]). Similar messages prevail in the writings of people who are embarrassed about their fantasies, believe they should be punished and/or humiliated for those fantasies, and then incorporate these elements into those very fantasies. Yet, in real life it can be very confusing for a bottom to learn to fear and avoid pain as genuine punishment, and then to embrace pain and love it as a reward and/or a message of caring. Also, humiliation (when it gen-

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of power-over is very potent and quite sufficient. Shouting and yelling can signify a loss of power by demonstrating that a subject has provoked the Queen to lose emotional control; firm explanations and instructions given in a lowered voice require that the subject listen closely while demonstrating that She is not ruffled or disturbed by Her subject's actions or behavior. Combined with withdrawal of privileges, rewards, and affection until Her subject's behavior suits Her, these actions taken by the Queen are an example of a training and discipline — a power-over situation done with a power-from-within mindset. Power-over can also be used judiciously to entice or push a subject to expand a limit.

Pain can be used in a sensation scene, a training scene, as a demonstration or reminder of the Queen's power, or as a humbling tool. It can be a reward if the subject is masochistic, or an opportunity to learn trust and deep surrender if not. It can also be part of a great make-out session! I've been sublimely turned on while My subject was nestled in My arms as I kissed and bit his lips, squeezed the clamps on his nipples, and firmly slapped his face, chest, genitals, and inner thighs. Tantric breathing, and energy and chakra awareness have helped us feel very merged as our energies join in deep union for hours.

Collaring a Subject

When I start a scene, I almost always begin with a collaring ritual, no matter what identity or role the bottom occupies. As I see it, The Queen has a very large Domain that can contain many types of subjects, including servants, slaves, priests and priestesses, students, pets, babies and toddlers, warriors, knights, princes and princesses, and even Kings and

...collaring Kings and other Queens can be a delicate and personal matter, requiring just the right collar

other Queens! Therefore I seek to make the collar suit the subject: for a baby or a toddler I use one made out of two real baby teething necklaces put together; for a slave, a heavy chain collar; for a Princess, a rhinestone necklace; for a maid I might use a simple light chain necklace or string of pearls; for a priest or priestess a symbol of whatever spirituality is brought to the Queen; I use a simple ribbon or leather thong for a student; and an animal collar if a pet is an animal or a leather thong if the pet is human. I find ribbons and leather thongs in my favorite colors to be very versatile collars: they suit most subjects and are still inconspicuous in the vanilla world. Sometimes collaring Kings and other Queens can be a delicate and personal matter, requiring just the right collar — unless the subject gets too uppity, in which case I tell the subject what kind of behavior is inappropriate and produce a leather thong, which is all such a subject gets.

Before I collar anyone the subject is asked to kneel before Me in the most graceful and/or submissive position she or he can imagine. After I take time to appreciate the position, whose offering tells me a lot about the subject, I then put the subject in a position I find most pleasing and appropriate, and ask what the person thinks it means to wear a collar. After I consider the response I speak of what it means to me, and thus now as well to the subject. I tailor my collaring ritual to each subject, and once in place it is the same every time. The subject is usually required to memorize it, and then the ritual starts by my asking

the subject to tell Me what it means to wear My collar. If we have played often I instruct the subject to speak from the heart, not the mind, in order to keep the words fresh.

This is an example of how I start the ritual:

1. Wearing My collar is a symbol of your submission and our agreement. It does not *make* you submissive. Submission is a voluntary gift. It does not automatically mean you are owned, or an animal.

2. While wearing My collar you will listen to Me and obey Me to the best of your ability.

3. You will do as you're told to please and serve Me without hesitation.

4. If I am not pleased, you will accept graciously and with humility, any consequences, training, and/or punishment I deem appropriate, and you will trust Me to be appropriate.

5. While you are wearing My collar I am responsible for you, and will do my best to make sure that no harm befalls you.

6. Only I can remove the collar.

After completing this portion of the ritual I ask if there are any questions. I address each question, tailor the ritual, and then ask if the subject can abide by My rules. If the answer is yes, as it is most always by this time, I place the collar around the subject's neck as he or she kneels before Me, or begin the subject's training by teaching them how to present the collar to Me.

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The Value of Ritual



I find, with most subjects, that doing this ritual every time we play sets the stage and the tone for our interactions. It connects us and reconnects us, and can be deeply intimate, erotic, and hypnotic. Also, if a bottom makes a mistake or displeases me in any way and there is a dispute about what happened, all we have to do is go back to our agreement, the collaring ritual, and the dispute is automatically cleared up. What happens next depends on the situation and the subject's attitude.

At the end of our scene I usually return to our starting position, remove the collar, and declare that we are now returning to the state of two human beings equal on the face of this earth. I believe that both Top and bottom have power and this is what makes us equal.

The Leash

Exchanging the gifts of submission and dominance — my agreeing to be dominant is a gift as well — is the power exchange, even, or perhaps especially, in an ongoing 24/7 relationship. I have the agreed-upon authority to start a scene or bump it up a level by the use of an established code word such as the bottoms' scene name, the word "subject", or one of the following leash terms.

As I find it practical and less stressful for me, and the bottom, not to be in strict role all the time, I use the concepts of long leash, medium leash, and short leash to differentiate among the levels of power, role, and submission.

Long leash is when we're with those who don't know and wouldn't appreciate the situation, such as a PTA meeting, relatives, or a business situation — straight time — except to us.

Medium leash is when nothing intense is happening when we're alone, with friends who understand, or out and about in the world. At this informal time some rules, such as subtle forms of address, subtle body postures, and body use restrictions may be appropriate.

Short leash is a full-out formal scene with all rules being observed, whether that scene be one of service, training, sensation, reward, or anything else. Short leash situations are more intense, focused, and erotic.

These scenes can start and end with the formal collaring ritual. In an ongoing 24/7 it is also possible for the subject to wear more than one collar. For example, a subject might always wear a simple gold or silver chain that is soldered or

Tantra & Sacred Sex Resources

Books

Anand, Margo, *The Art of Sexual Ecstasy*; The Path of Sacred Sexuality for Western Lovers. Tarcher/Putnam. 1989 450pp., \$19.95

Ramsdale, David and Ellen, *Sexual Energy Ecstasy*; A Practical Guide to Lovemaking Secrets of the East and West. Bantam Books. 1993 370pp., \$17.95

Jwala, *Sacred Sex*; Ecstatic Techniques for Empowering Relationships. Mandala. 1993 144pp., \$17.95

Paulson, Genevieve Lewis, *Kundalini and the Chakras*. Llewellyn Publications. 1997 200pp., \$14.95

Yin, Amarah Quan, *The Pleiadian Tantric Workbook*. Bear and Company Publishing. 1997 298pp., \$16.00

Available by mail order from:

Good Vibrations. 938 Howard St. San Francisco, CA 94103 415 / 974 - 8980

Web Sites

www.tantra.com

www.tantra.org

www.heck.com/annie/sprinkleshows.html

This list contains some of my favorite resources but is by no means complete. There is much to be found surfing the Web, and reading publications and by attending **The Whole Life Expo**:

www.wholelife.com. SH❖

locked on in a manner that is very discreet. This kind of reminder can extend the Queen's rule and allow Her to be with Her subject at all times.

I have found the role model of The Strict and Gracious Queen to be useful to both women and men. Women seem to appreciate their unique power being acknowledged, and some men (Tops and bottoms) have reported finding a kind of balance within themselves by employing both types of power. I hope you, the reader, will also find some use and enjoyment from this concept.

Happy Ruling!❖

Sybil Holiday is a certified in sex educator and hypnotherapist as well as being a professional domina in private practice in San Francisco. She and William Henkin have written several articles for The Guardian. (See issues #16, 17, 30) Their latest book is reviewed on pg 28. <mboliday@ix.netcom.com>

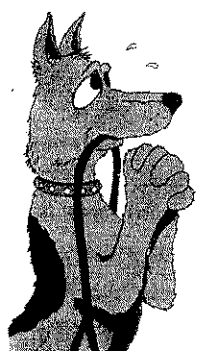
No Music but the Sound of my Voice

by **TruDeviant**

"Commands are older than speech. If this were not so, dogs could not understand them. Animals can be trained because they can be taught to understand what is required of them without understanding speech. The trainer makes his will known to them in short clear commands, no different in essence from those addressed to human beings; and they still also obey his prohibitions. There is thus every reason to seek very ancient roots for the command."

- from *Crowds and Power* by Elias Canetti

One of the amazing things about the human voice is that it can express such a wide variety of feelings and intentions. This ability makes man the only creature that can compel many other animals to obey its voice.



Any half decent dog obedience manual will tell you early on, that the best way to get a proper reaction from your dog is to use a firm, but not hysterical voice and single word commands to get your point across to your pet. The sound of your voice correcting the dog is contrasted with the soothing praise you offer for correct behavior. (For dog lovers out there, I recommend *Advanced Obedience: Easier Than You Think* by Joel M. McMains).

Since mankind first developed the ability to articulate language, certain individuals have learned how to effectively sway

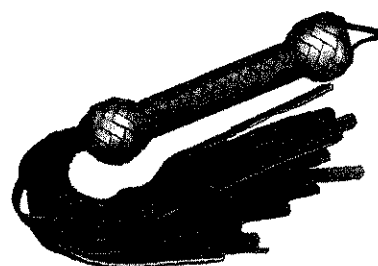
large crowds of people to do all sorts of things. The 1938 Orson Welles radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds" comes to mind, during which a large number of people were convinced that Martians were invading the Earth. In our century Adolph Hitler and Martin Luther King Jr. are examples of powerful speakers, who used their vocal abilities to move masses of people for very different reasons. Throughout history, people have been led into all sorts of idiotic behavior as a direct result of convincing rhetoric.

The voice of the dominant

It seems reasonable to expect a good dominant to be able to create a powerful dynamic and the resulting scene using only his voice, his hands and of course his mind to make these tools as effective as possible!

An attempt to use your voice to humiliate, degrade, torment, and thrill a submissive without knowing much about them can be much more damaging than you might think. The old "sticks and

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The sound of my voice

continued from pg 19

stones" adage doesn't always hold up. In most scenarios one should use words carefully. It only takes one wrong word to get someone to a place you may not be intending to take them. Words such as "cunt," "faggot," "nigger," (and one of the most dangerous: "stupid,") if used on the wrong person could end whatever scene you have going, perhaps permanently. With submissives who are not used to being challenged verbally, it can be a good idea to surround the abusive language, with a more relaxed kind of monologue or dialog.

Which brings up the idea of flow in a verbal scene. How do you shift from talking or silence into a more insistent tone? How do you move from one kind of verbiage to another? Someone with a good feel for this kind of play will often make these decisions unconsciously just as a truck driver adjusts his gears to the grades of the road. A good instinct for timing and intensity in verbal play can take quite some time to develop. Like anything else, you get better the more you do it.

Style

Just as the innocuous wooden spoon from the kitchen can become a remarkably wicked tool in the playroom, so can styles of convincing speech from the most unlikely contexts be applied to dastardly and delicious ends in an evolving verbal scene.

One such unusual source of inspiration for a verbal scene is the American tradition of preaching. Afro-American preachers in particular have an amazing tradition of public speaking that when analyzed, has much that is adaptable to playroom verbalizing. What is of interest here is not the highly melodic intonation of Black preaching, but the overall slow rise in intensity during a sermon, from a kind of slower than normal conversational tone to a charismatic type of talking in lengthy streams of language, punctuated by noisy intakes of breath. These "interruptions" provide the audience with a chance to respond and fall into a pattern of call and response, a common feature of ancient African singing. At this point the preacher will retrieve already spoken important phrases from his sermon and restate them more fervently, sometimes over and over again, heightening the trance-like quality of his speech and eliciting even more heartfelt audience response. The preacher knows that these impor-

tant phrases, if repeated with the right balance of conviction and inner strength, will stick in the mind of the listener for days afterwards, hopefully lingering in the mind of the listener until he delivers the next sermon.

Odd as it may seem, this pattern of speaking is not terribly different from that of the Marine drill Sergeant addressing his new crop of recruits. And both the preacher and the sergeant have a similar goal: to establish the supreme authority of the commandments of a higher power.

Roles

A large amount of verbal play occurs as an integral part of role-playing scenes, scenes where the participants engage in a kind of playacting. Good actors go to great lengths to train their bodies and voices so they can

authentically inhabit the persona they become. Actors are required by necessity to learn a wide variety of vocal techniques in order to embody the parts they play. They study in depth the physical mechanics of human speech production. They learn that each emotional state automatically affects this speech-producing mechanism.

As an example, anger has an enormously overt effect on the human body.

Tension accumulates deep within the individual. Likewise the interior muscles tense up involuntarily to mobilize for action. This is directly communicated to the diaphragm, limiting its movement and results in shallow breathing which is necessary for getting the most oxygen possible to the muscles. The short rapid breaths that occur break up speech into smaller sections and increase the flow of words. The same tension that affects the diaphragm also spreads to the pharynx, which causes the pitch of the voice to rise. Increased pressure of the breath stream increases the volume and a kind of "punching" delivery. Finally, the jaw tightens and actually compels the speaker to emphasize harsher consonant sounds. When enraged, our speech may resemble in many ways the snapping and guttural growls of non-human animals.

Every emotion has a different effect on how we sound. It's not necessary to analyze every physical manifestation of our feelings in order to function effectively. Obviously, we do it without thinking about it most of the time. (Perhaps too much of the time.) But it is a good idea to pay more attention to how your body works with you to give your words additional meaning.

The actress, Eleanora Duse, once moved an entire New York audience to tears by reading the Manhattan telephone to them ... in Italian! Her trained voice created a dynamic of tone and rhythm powerful enough to go far

beyond the actual meaning of the words she used.

"I hadn't expected him *not* to respond. 'Sir, I'll obey you, Sir!' I screamed out again, and there was still no answer. Again, again, almost desperately. Maybe the fuckin' mike was broken. Maybe the bastard was asleep and didn't hear me, 'Sir, Oh please, Sir. I'll obey you!' "

-from *The Leatherman's Handbook 2*

by Larry Townsend-

Verbal play can be limited to a focused monologue aimed at a silent (gagged?) recipient or at someone who is allowed only to respond every so often to direct questions. At other times a developed dialogue can be instigated with both scenemates voicing their feelings and establishing particular fantasy roles: sire and servant, parent and child, lawgiver and lawbreaker, even trainer and animal (with appropriate animal sound responses), etc.

While it's not always necessary or desirable to rehearse a verbal scene, it is a good idea to take the time to listen to the sound of your own voice on an external recording device. Your voice sounds quite different when you hear it projected back at you from outside your head. Your recorded voice is closer to what your scenemate hears than the voice you hear, which is a combination of what comes out of your mouth directly and what resonates inside your head.

You can also use sound devices to play interesting tricks with your voice.

Leaving someone alone in a room with one of those baby monitors turned on, a carefully placed speaker phone, or even a pair of walkie talkies can be the basis of an interestingly distanced verbal scene.

Be aware of the physical acoustic aspects of your play space. In any room certain vocal tones resonate. This is most noticeable in a very reverberant room with hard surfaces, like a tiled bathroom. When your voice resonates, the sound sympathetically vibrates in the air and makes a richer, fuller, lingering effect.

The cheapest way to experience this effect is to select a play space with excellent acoustic possibilities. An empty warehouse space with concrete floors or a stairwell with solid walls and metal stairs guarantees great sonic possibilities.

If you want to get elaborate with this verbal stuff, you can buy a good microphone and some electronic devices, like a harmonizer or a vocoder. With a little experimentation you can deepen your voice or lighten it. In short you can change the gender of your voice pretty easily. This means a woman's voice can take on the characteristics of a man's and vice versa. Or you can just make

your voice unrecognizable to someone who knows you well. All kinds of possibilities open up at this point!

"Alone in the darkness of my quarters, my mind is reliving the scene of a few nights ago. I can feel my Mistress's body beneath me. I can feel her voice, raspy and sexual in my ear. 'Fuck, nigger. That's what I bought you for.' "

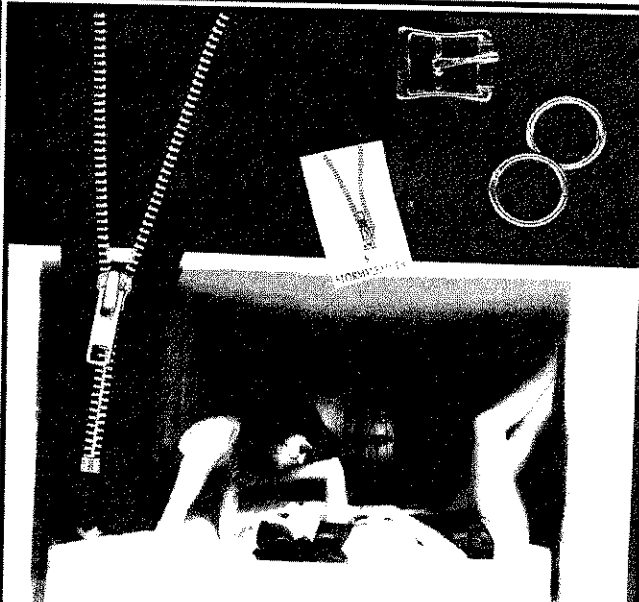
-Viola Johnson-

Racially oriented verbal play is not so often talked about, but people do engage in racial forms of play. Verbalized racism can form the basis for a super charged turn on ... for some people.

There is a particularly forbidden aspect to this game that can make it a most liberating experience from either side of the D/S equation. But unless you know someone well and you have discussed this beforehand, it's probably not a good idea to burst spontaneously into playing "plantation." You might not get the kind of response you were looking for from your submissive, if you happen to be white and the sub black! And of course, turnabout might be more than fair play! or some in depth views on racial aspects of BDSM, check out the magazine:

"Black Leather in Color. — Leather on the cutting

continued on pg 24



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Soundproofing Your Dungeon

Helpful hints to keep your private business private.

by Nickita

It's good practice to keep your private business private under the best of circumstances. If your interest is BDSM, it's easiest to preserve that privacy with a remote country home to play in, or even a house with a basement and generous yard space all around. But many people don't have that option — they live either in houses with virtually no separation from neighbors or they're apartment dwellers. Part of the solution, at least, is to do something about the noise. That means soundproofing.

Understand that perfection is costly, requires expert advice, expensive materials, and may call for some serious reconstruction, which you can't even do unless you are the homeowner. All that is beyond the scope of this article. My research has, however, turned up some techniques that even apartment dwellers may be able to use.

Padded furnishings generally help absorb the sound in any room. You can also make generous use of wall hangings and tapestries, heavy canvas drapes, cork sheets or egg cartons tacked to the walls, and similar materials. Do not neglect the floor and ceiling.

Another possibility is to tack up 1/2" carpeting lined with carpet padding on floor, ceiling — and walls. Effective, but wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling carpeting is probably not your idea of what you'll see in "Better Cells and Dungeons." Especially if it's in dirty pink.

An alternative, especially

for a room you can set aside as a playroom for the duration of your residence, is to construct

... gypsum board comes with simulated wood grain, textured patterns, and colored vinyl surfaces

removable wall panels. Attach 1/2" sheets of sound-deadening board ... an insulation-type wall-board of wood fiber ... to **both** sides of a frame of 2"x3" lumber. The frame should be about 3/4" smaller than the wall space it will cover. This provides you with a panel for each wall to help reduce sound — for a removable room within a room. Where the frames meet, seal with tape and caulking. You can use carpet or cork on the surface.

An alternative option is to simply provide an inner wall. Apply wallboard joint compound in dabs about 8" apart on the existing wall. Put your gypsum board over it, making certain the panels don't join at the same points as the inner wall panels. Then run a 2"x4" board across the new wallboard surface and tap with a hammer to spread the joint compound and solidly join the two surfaces. You can use a few nails temporarily until the compound dries. Decals are optional, although in seriously poor taste. Actually, gypsum board comes with simulated wood grain, textured patterns, and colored vinyl surfaces. You can also carpet the exposed wall surface, providing for some overlap.

Your playroom door needs to be sturdy and of *solid* wood, even if you have to replace it at your own expense. A flimsy door, unfortunately common in apartments, is not an effective sound barrier. Line the door with carpeting.

You should also consider windows. A double window system is the best. The owner may be talked into installing such windows or may permit you to replace your windows at your own expense. You can also use egg cartons on a carpet-edged styrofoam sheet which you can plug into the window well, with

blankets over all, on a permanent or temporary basis.

Let aesthetics guide you, but also consider air circulation in making your decisions. Also, should you decide to fix up a particular room, check first and see if there is a vent that connects directly with other apartments. If so, your efforts might be wasted. If you have your own air conditioner and heating unit inside your apartment, that's better.

If it is not a safety hazard, consider blocking the vent, at least temporarily. Incidentally, any work you do towards sound reduction may just pay for itself in the long run by providing useful heating or cooling savings in winter or summer.

Sources

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How to Make Your Own Recreation and Hobby Rooms, Treves, Ralph, Popular Science Publishing Co: Harper & Row, pp.152-32

"Wrap It Yourself in Quiet"
www.bdf2001.com/wwwboard/messages/588.html

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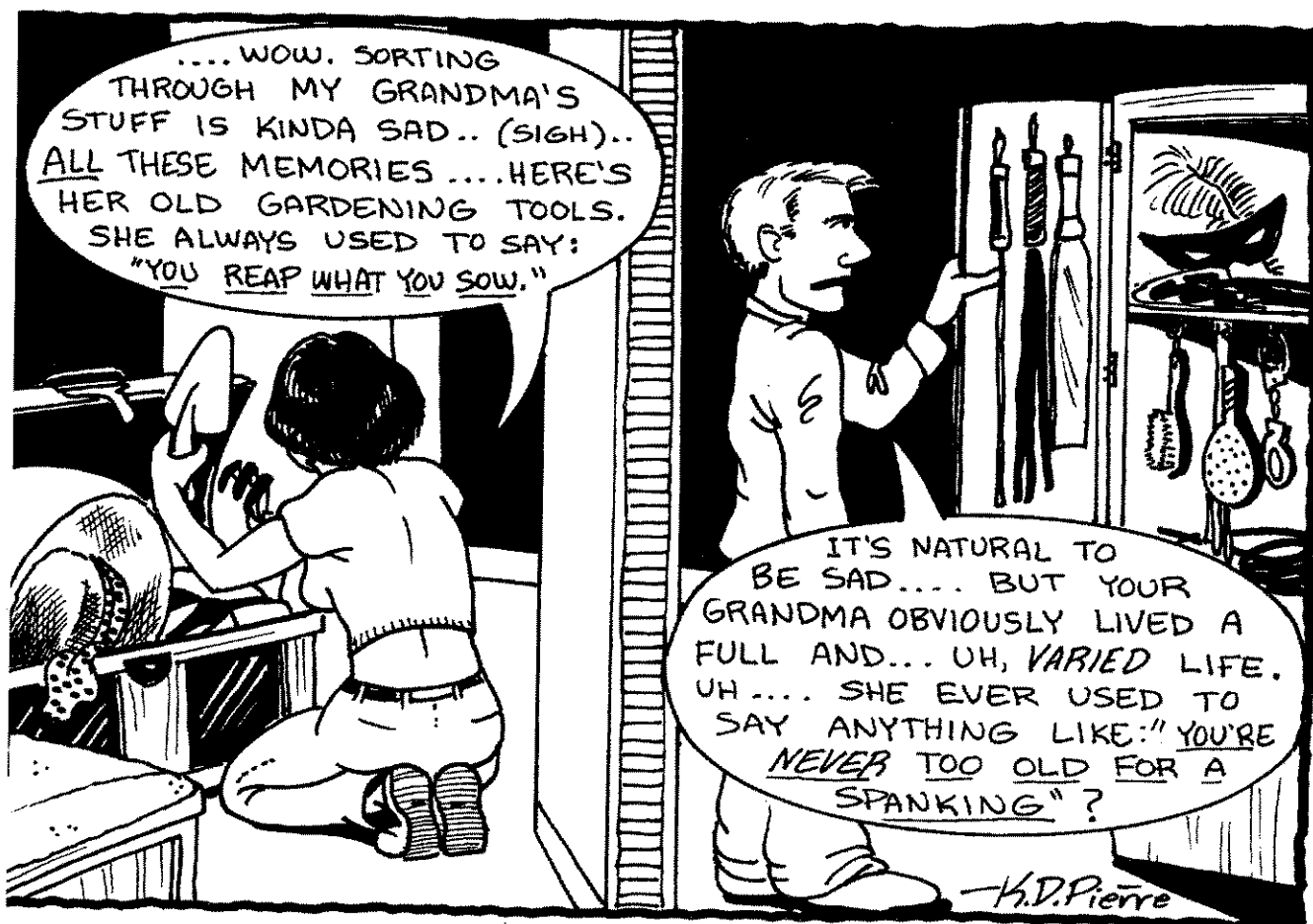
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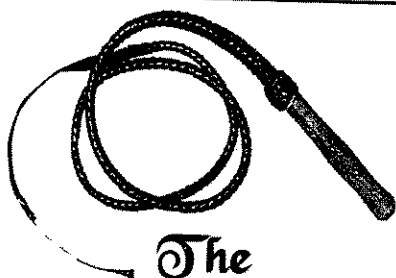
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Voice in a scene

continued from pg 23

edge for people of color and their friends." Their address is BLIC Collective 874 Broadway #808, NY, NY 10003.

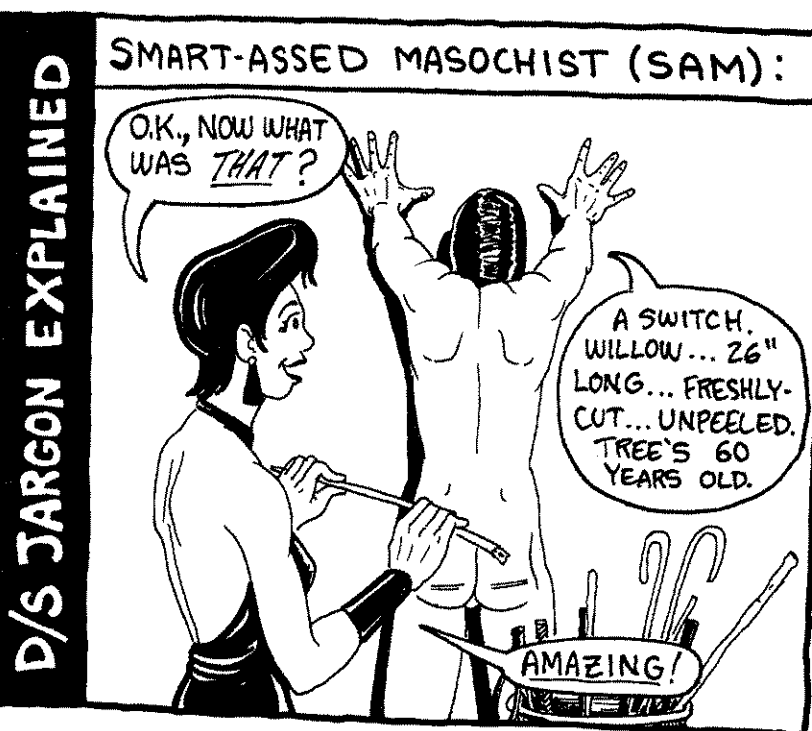
The kind of pain that language can set off is of a much different sort than the kind you get from a good thrashing! And people are very different in what kind of language they respond to well. Some need to be reminded of their place, some to be humiliated and embarrassed, and some to be truly degraded.

Similar language might be suitable for all of these situations depending on the individual toward whom it is directed.

Be cautious about emphasizing the every day weaknesses of your submissive during play. Feelings of general worthlessness may be a real turn on for some, but harping on real life problem

areas can be psychologically devastating. Be continually aware of how well you are doing at getting the effect you want. Sooner and often later, you will find out just how successful you were.

Acting and role-playing verbally can spark a great scene; however, the best verbal streams come, not from some kind of rehearsed "script," but from somewhere deep inside. The key here is to access a region of your personality that is real and with some mixture of skill and instinct, use this hyper intense language that arises out of you to hone in on a complementary region of your submissive. The deeper you probe, the more amazing the results can be, but as mentioned above, be sure you're reaching a place that both of you are willing and capable of handling. ❖



KD Pierre

How to Hide-a-Dungeon

by S. Benedick

Incorporating your fun-iture invisibly

One year ago my partner and I purchased a house, and from the moment we signed the papers, we dreamed of turning most of the second floor into a full-scale play-area with stocks, suspension, bondage beds ... the works! To make matters more difficult, our 1860's house is an architectural novelty and thus is frequented by interested locals, tourists, and even college students from nearby universities. In planning our home, the equipment needed a high "explainability" factor, so that during our *non-scene* parties, we can entertain guests and not worry that our private lives will be revealed through suspicious eyehooks lining the walls. Despite these challenges, both my Captain and I are handy enough to tackle the construction ourselves and after a year of planning and design, we are as finished as one can ever be.

Covered with glow-in-the-dark stars, and residing in the room with the closets, dressers, etc., guests have never questioned our unique Hide-a-Bed seen on the next page, or even raised an eyebrow. Some do comment on its size, since it consumes a considerable portion of the room, but none can guess that perhaps the night before, it supported a flying (suspended) hog-tie!

When guests are taken through the house, in addition to the bedroom, our tour takes them through my office, where all these plans are hatched, and into our spare room which contains the toy chest, bondage bed, and deprivation chamber. The toy chest is simply a Craftsman tool chest. We bought it on sale at Sears for about \$150.00, and it's perfect. Nine drawers of various depths allow us to store almost all our toys and related items (lube, condoms, clips, etc.) under lock and key. When we first purchased it, we debated about whether to install the rollers. When fully loaded, it is quite heavy and it seemed unlikely that we would actually roll it from one room to the next. Since then we've come to realize that moving the toy chest isn't that difficult (especially for the Captain who simply wields a riding crop) and is very convenient to have all the toys easily accessible in the play area. Were guests to ask, "What's in the chest?" we'd say, "tools." Truthfully, though, they never ask.

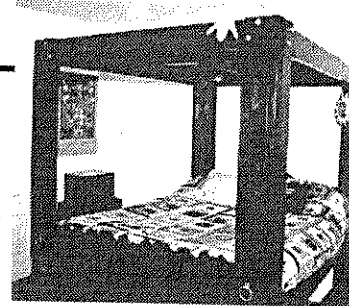
Next to the toy chest is a psychiatrist's couch we have modified Pretending to be a bed for guests' children, the couch is comfortable enough to

sleep on and most importantly, provides a solid and elevated platform for bondage. Underneath, we have added the eyehooks in convenient locations for the Captain.

Across the way is the deprivation chamber which used to be a small closet. The rows of hooks for clothing are fastened into boards that hang on eyehooks — covering the hooks when not required for a scene. They are strong enough to hang bathrobes, towels, pajamas and the like when the space is not required for training purposes. When my Captain needs some peace and quiet, however, the eyehooks can be revealed to keep subs firmly attached to the walls, ceilings, and/or floors.

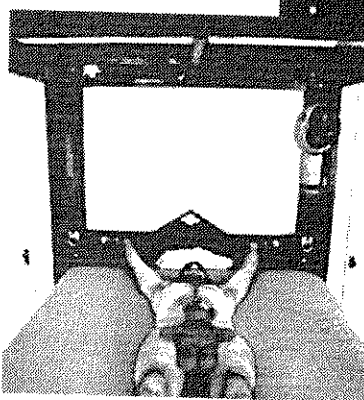
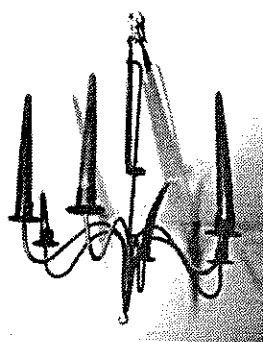
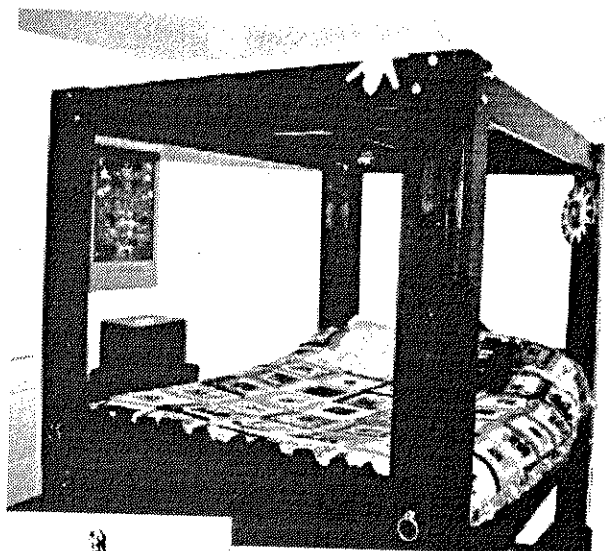
From there you can gain access to our "training room," our main playroom. Here we keep the exercise equipment, weights and Nordic Trak. We also keep a massage bench which is tucked into the corner. If a guest asks, we point out how it allows a person to be prone, relax their shoulders and enjoy a thorough back massage. For our purposes, the creation is a spanking bench in which the sub is ready for all kinds of abuse. It was built using plywood, 2 x 4's, padding and vinyl on a sawhorse base, and it collapses for ease of transport. We left off the attachment points usually found on these benches to not draw undue attention. After all, why would a "massage bench" have hooks? Additionally, we usually throw our towels on it or stack our hand weights, so it fits in.

The spanking bench and suspension gear are in a room that also boasts a bicycle stand, weights, and various other exercise equipment. Despite the spare bed (a futon good for wrestling and more bondage), we've tried to give the room the feel of a gym and workout center, and thus in this context our more eccentric equipment seems to be more readily accepted.



**we've tried to
give the (training)
room the feel
of a gym**

continued on pg 26



Our "Hide-a-Bed" like all of our creations, is functional, constructible and explainable. The posts are made of 2 x 8's and 2 x 6's screwed and glued together to form sides of equal length (8" square), 88" high. The rails are 2 x 8's and the canopy is made of 2 x 6's. It's held together with some 50 3/8" bolts all with washers.

The bed is useful for all kinds of play. The posts are sturdy enough for any kind of bondage and/or restraint for whipping, and the canopy and center bars are strong enough for suspension (full or partial). The rings at the foot have proved useful in a variety of ways. The bed's weight is enough to counterbalance any mass hung from the nearby ceiling hook (in the chandelier) in the event that some monkey (usually me) is left securely swinging in the breeze. Under most circumstances, a quilt covers most of the footboard and headboard, so the "wave" pattern is invisible, but even if it's out in the open, its function is hard to guess.

The footboard and headboard turn into stocks when the top halves are added and locked into place. The stock attachments connect with a deadbolt, hook-eyes, and/or slide-bolt locks. The footboard stocks can be used to lock the victim's hands, feet, or neck, and will keep him/her safely secured on or off the bed. We found that when placed on the bed (queen size) and in stocks, our most recent sub's limbs were stretched to their full capacity and he was rendered totally helpless.

Additionally, securing a galley slave off the bed, bending over with neck and hands in the footboard stocks, offers an easy target for spanking, etc.

Hide-a-Dungeon continued from pg 25

Sometimes the best disguise is simply atmosphere.

To date, we have given countless tours of our home without any incident or moments of discomfort. One of the most important things we've learned besides good design is to distract and redirect their attention in a seamless way so that they enjoy the tour and miss the good parts. For example, when we get to the bed, we'll direct our guests' gaze to the quilt made by my grandmother as a wedding gift to her husband. Once credibility is established, the rest of the tour is easier. Further, if my Captain sits on the psychiatrist's couch and I stand in front of the tool chest, for exam-

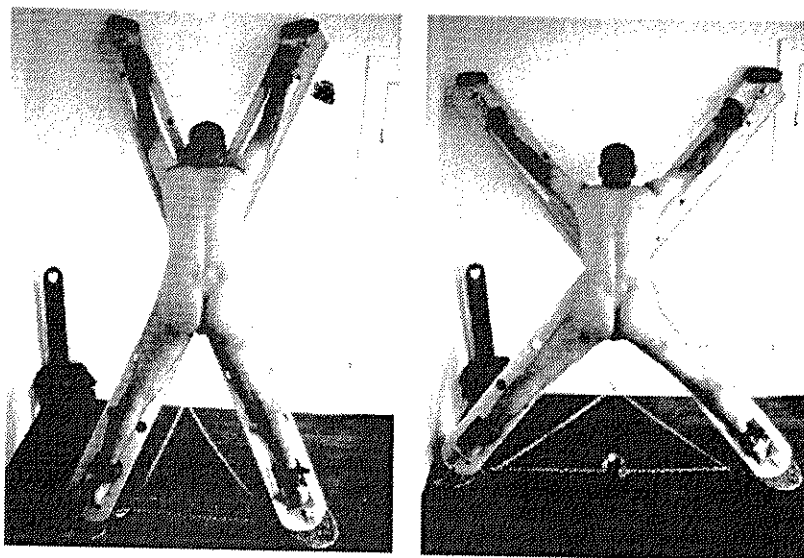
ple, there is little place for the guests to go except into the "training room." If they're rude/bold enough to open the closet for a peek (which has happened), they're greeted with clothes on hooks, as opposed to poorly behaved submissives, and close it quickly.

It's been a long year of design, construction, and testing. The extra time involved could have been spent in play, but until we're able to use silicon dildoes for centerpieces at Thanksgiving we feel such precautions are necessary. While we're waiting for BDSM to be more widely accepted, our "Hide-a-Dungeon" affords my Captain and me a regular life filled with BDSM and at the same time protects our lifestyle from the Bible Thumpers. Amen to that! ♦



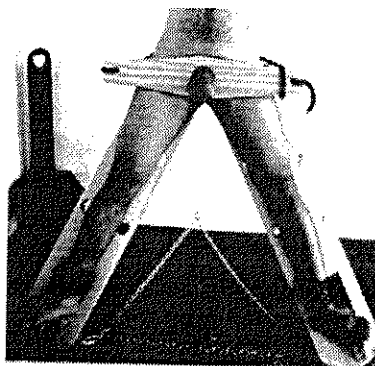
The Hammock-Chair remains suspended over the floor at all times, providing vague cover for the suspension equipment. (It also works wonderfully as a toy all by itself for those times when the Captain just wants to get the slave out from under her desk and into some long-term suspension.) We keep the handle of the 1,400 lb. winch in a drawer when the room is in vanilla mode which makes the whole apparatus untouchable for guests whose eye occasionally follow the 3/8" cable to the pulleys in the ceiling and down to the chair. They often ask to try out the chair, and we always oblige, making some comment about the ease of adjusting its height if it would make them more comfortable. So far, the whole apparatus hasn't actually gotten a comment.

(See **S/Mart Shopper**, pg 36 for information on ordering your very own Hammock Chair.)



The St. Andrew's Cross doesn't morph but it does come apart for storage under the guest bed. It is a hybrid of crosses seen around the country and in **The Guardian**. Built from nine foot, 2 x 10's, the 1 3/4" overlay gap, allows for the cross to be adjusted for the angle depending on the duration, bondage, flogging, or general beating, the lowly sub is to endure. Obviously, some positions are more strenuous than others, but it's fun to stretch a sub's limit even if the duration of that testing is noticeably short. To accommodate the possible variations, the bottoms of the legs have been rounded, and a chain holds the legs at the predetermined angle and secures them to the wall so that regardless of the flailing, it does not kick out. I added 1" slots for ropes or straps following the proposed changes for "Tom's Toy" in **The Guardian** (#28). I also cut out 2" holes for securing the legs above and below the knee. For male victims, a penis stock made from 3/4" plywood fastens to the cross and holds genitalia whose human counterpart might otherwise struggle

to move forward for pleasure or hide from pain securely against the structure. Additionally, the overall design makes the cross considerably easier to build, and had we known this earlier, we would have chosen a more impressive wood — cherry, perhaps.



(S. Benedick and his Captain reside in upstate NY. They can be contacted through **The Guardian**.)

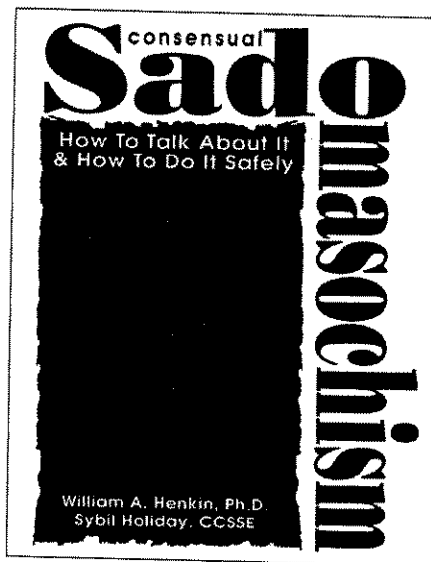
Consensual Sadomasochism: How to Talk About it and How to Do it Safely

William A. Henkin and Sybil Holiday,
(San Francisco: Daedalus, 1996),
264 pages, \$16.95

This recent addition to the growing number of beginner's BDSM manuals covers more ground than most of them, and is welcomely succinct. Henkin is a psychotherapist. Holiday is professional dominant. Both live in San Francisco, and have been teaching people about BDSM for about five years, mostly through seminars sponsored by QSM and Henkin's column in *Growing Pains*. [See their two part article on infantilism in *Guardians* #16 & 17.]

As subtitle implies, the book is divided into two parts. The first explains BDSM jargon; the second explains how to play safely. Their definitions and glossary are excellent, but some of the examples they choose to illustrate their points are terrible. This is especially true of their discussion of consensuality, where they explain that soldiers, "knew what they were getting into," and, "consented to the dangers of their profession." This is simply wrong. While it is true that, at present, American soldiers are volunteers, most of the world's soldiers are conscripts. And regardless of how soldiers enter their respective armed forces, they don't get a safeword that allows them to leave when the going gets rough and people start shooting at them. (A couple of U.S. soldiers tried this during Desert Storm, but they didn't get very far). BDSM play assumes an active consensuality that can be terminated by any participant at any time.

Despite pointing out that football and similar sports are more likely to lead to injury than BDSM, they spend more time talking about safety than any other issue, integrating it into every discussion. Safety is all well and good, but the community is losing its perspective. People routinely engage in far more dangerous activities, rock climbing say or mountain biking which I love to do. Books on these sports deal with safety quickly and matter-of-



factly (put your foot down wrong and you will break your ankle; over-brake on a steep descent and you'll plant your face in the dirt) and then get back to how to have fun. I have yet to meet anyone dumb enough

to do half the things we're routinely warned about, like suspending someone by their neck. I can only assume the emphasis on safety in BDSM books reflects a need to portray BDSM as far more dangerous than in fact it is. That is, after all, part of the fantasy: that we are dangerous rebels, looking for trouble and exploring uncharted sexual terrain. If we didn't think this was dangerous, it wouldn't get us half as hot.

At times this book is very basic, so basic you wonder who their audience is. For instance, they recommend you bathe, brush your hair, and wear clean clothes before going to a party. One can only wonder what kind of parties they've been going to. Throughout, though, they show a deep understanding of how BDSM is structured, the importance of ritual, how to open and close a scene, psychological issues, head space, and spirituality. While they strongly caution against using BDSM play as a substitute for psychotherapy, they do discuss how BDSM play can trigger repressed memories, and unearth buried traumas — events that have disrupted many a scene! Their discussion of lifestyle BDSM is also excellent, and they make the important distinction between those who do this fairly casually (with a long leash) and those who try to live every moment in BDSM role (on a short leash). They correctly point out that short leash scenes are so intense that most don't last long and

BOOK REVIEW too *by Carolyn Vakesh*

Bondage on a Budget:

The Ultimate Guide to Low Cost

Lust Allison Tyler & Dante Davidson,

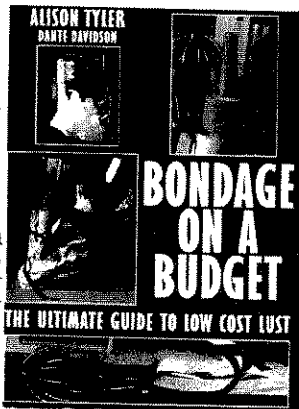
(NY: Masquerade, 1997),

408 pages, \$6.95

This book came to my attention after two of my friends purchased it, thinking it was a guide to low cost toy construction. It's not. It is actually a collection of erotic short stories in which common household items are put to sexual use. The authors start with Ace™ bandages and work their way through the alphabet to zucchinis! Regular *Guardian* readers won't find many new ideas, but with sixty-nine different stories, there's bound to be something in the book you haven't tried.

The stories are all very short. Some are only two pages long. The average is about four pages. If you like well-developed settings, involving plots, or character development, this book is not for you.

This is a book for all the people who "skip to the good parts," jack off, and get back to what they



were doing. Erotica for the attention-deficit-disordered would have been a more accurate subtitle. Still, if you read only one story a night, the book will last you just over two months. If you read several of the stories in one sitting, though, they become repetitive. Kitchen utensils and common tools are used in almost half the stories, and it seems like half the characters were masseurs or artists.

After each story is a short section of advice on technique, similar things you might try, and the now obligatory warnings on safety. The BDSM activities described are very mild — mostly spread-eagled bondage and spanking. If you're new to BDSM and looking for cheap things to try, you might want to give this book a try. Then again, you might want to wander through your local hardware or kitchen store and come up with ideas of your own.

Don't buy this book for what it's not. Buy it for what it is — a clever collection of 69 erotic short stories. ♦

Consensual Sadomasochism

continued from pg 28

are best saved for weekends and vacations. Most lifestyle couples vary between these states depending on their available time and their real world commitments.

If you already have a shelf full of basic BDSM books, you probably don't need this one, but unlike many others it at least has some new things to say. It wouldn't be my choice as a first book for someone to read, but would make a good second book for a beginner who's gotten his or her feet a little wet. There is a short annotated bibliography of sources for more information and an excellent index. While it doesn't go into the detail of *On the Safe Edge* (*Guardian* #18), it is much more readable, contains excellent discussions of psychological issues, and covers just about every safety issue you're likely to run into. ♦

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THE LURE OF THE UNDERGROUND

Fun With Vitamins

A B-dsm plaything that's good for you too

by Steve Vakesh



Most people into BDSM know to take zinc to speed the healing of bruises, and iron to make their appearance more difficult to achieve, but there's also a vitamin you can take to add a whole new level to your BDSM experience: Niacin (Vitamin B3). Niacin is commonly prescribed in very large doses to people with high cholesterol. One of its side-effects is what the medical establishment calls flushing. In laymen's terms it means your skin turns red and feels like its burning at about the level of a serious sunburn. If you like playing with nettles and similar skin irritants, Niacin offers a similar sensation, but one that fades in about 30 minutes. As with nettles, heightened skin sensitivity makes a flogging, or any physical contact, more intense. In contrast to nettles, Niacin is much less likely to

provoke an allergic reaction, is commonly available at health food and drug stores, is good for you anyway, and its effects won't last beyond the scene.

The RDA for Niacin is 15-20 milligrams a day. To get the flushing effect you'll need to take at least 100 milligrams, and probably more. Taking it on an

... experiment with the right dosage, working your way up in 100 milligram increments.

empty stomach helps bring on the flushing. Doctors routinely prescribe doses of 1000 milligrams for people with only mild cholesterol problems, and even higher doses for those with severe cholesterol problems. You should experiment with the right dosage for you, working your way up in 100 milligram

increments. Because it is a water-soluble vitamin, overdoses and toxicity are highly unlikely.

Still, you shouldn't be taking high doses frequently unless you have a medical need to do so. Obviously you should do a bit of research on your own and check with your doctor if you have any concerns before giving Niacin a try.

If you prefer the anonymity of mail order to asking your local pharmacist:

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Steve Vakesh is not a pharmacist, but has had experience with Niacin and has gotten an informal medical opinion regarding its use.



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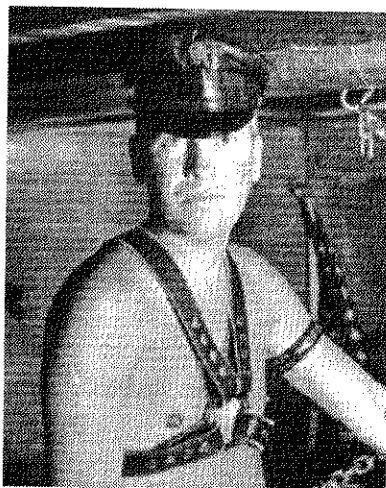
Leather Candidate for Congress

(Chicago, IL)

Wondering where the "Out and Open" Candidates of the "Leather" and "SM" persuasion are? There's at least one in Chicago this year. Republican candidate for Illinois' 4th Congressional District is John Birch, also known as "Jeb," formerly the publisher of "Metropolitan Slave" magazine.

Birch, 45, a retired major in the US Army Reserve makes it clear that he is *not* connected to the Ultra-Right Wing John Birch Society.

Reporting Jeb's candidacy The Chicago Tribune wrote, in part:



Jeb, in full regalia in "So You Want to Be a Slave?" A manual for the modern, consensual slave. 1997

"He is the owner of a Chicago nightclub called the **Leatherneck Bar**, which caters to, 'those who are interested in or curious about the leather lifestyle.' He holds nothing back about his personal life and admits to several indiscretions on his web site.

"Birch, who said he plans to sell the leather bar, is not a resident of the 4th District, but he would move if the were to win.

'I am not going to move my family on the minuscule chance that I defeat a Democrat in the city of Chicago,' said Birch. He has not received support from the Republican Party. Birch described himself as, 'a businessman who has had it with the federal government.' ♦



Candidate Birch sent *The Guardian* this photo as an illustration of his strongly pro-ecology position.

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QSM: a Class Act

An addition to the history of
the past 10 years.

by Karen Mendelsohn

In 1988, when *The Guardian* started, I was as an officer in San Francisco's Society of Janus and its Program Director. I arranged the twice-monthly educational classes — finding teachers, presenting a wide range of topics, seeing each program through from idea to clean-up. I enjoyed it tremendously.

But volunteering had its limitations. I had a vision for presenting classes in a different way: I wanted to start an "SM school" where any adult with a sincere interest could attend: no screening process ... and no membership. Classes would be open to long-time players as well as the timid or curious.

I also wanted to pay my teachers. Aside from the

occasional SM "star" who might offer a series of paid classes to a select few, teaching was a volunteer effort. In paying teachers, I was saying that skillful teaching should be as rewarded as skillful dominance sessions.

And finally, I wanted to be paid! I'd seen many people take on a project they cared about while maintaining their day job and spending most of their free time on their dream. But few people can sustain such a herculean effort year after year, as demonstrated by the number of groups and 'zines that had folded in spite of quality, effort, and love.

The classes would have to cost significantly more than the programs offered by membership clubs to cover expenses. How much would people be willing to pay? How frequently should I hold classes? And where would I find my students? This was uncharted territory I learned by trial and error.

For two years I rented class space wherever I could find it: party spaces, dungeons, even a friend's basement. Then I found a storefront in a pleasant San Francisco neighborhood with an understanding landlord and I could begin to think about expanding.

**I got into the
mail-order business
without ever
planning it**

Students Need Books

Sometimes a teacher would recommend a certain book and students asked if I could get it. Why not? A new generation of how-to books was just becoming available. I set up a small book display. When they began asking books to be mailed, I got into the mail-order business without ever planning it. Our first catalog was one page attached to the class flyers. In a couple of years, the catalog was eight pages long, and at its height, the quarterly catalog was 36 pages and contained over 500 publications! I now send smaller, more targeted ones.

At first, I did all the mail-order work myself. One of my turning points was when I became an employer. It made everything more serious. I was now responsible not just for my own livelihood but for other people's as well.

Although we sell to people of all sexes and persuasions, our typical customer is a middle-aged man living a quiet lifestyle in a conservative part of the country. We ship many books to small towns scattered throughout the East and Midwest. Some of our best customers are retired, and happily tell us that now they have the time to explore an interest they used to repress.

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One of the jobs I enjoy the most is finding small publishers to promote. About a year ago I discovered the **Tawshingham** booklets from England. Modestly produced, these have themes like ponygirl/boy play, transformation into animals, crossdressing, and lots of British discipline. **Lizbeth Dousseau** has written 7 books for Masquerade Books and now publishes her own **Pink Flamingo** novels. Her heroines are women who fall under the spell of submission and pain. Paris' **Annette Morreau**'s specialty is spanking - both men and women punish bad behavior with a firm hand.

I believe that the Internet is going to change business in ways that we can't even imagine yet. QSM has a website (www.qualitysm.com). By the time you read this, our first book reviews should be posted on the web. We're planning an author's page, where a featured author will create an original piece of writing just for our site.

For years I've considered selling videos and audiotapes. 1999, which will be our 10th anniversary, may be the year this happens. I'm now looking for sincere tapes by real practitioners. As for the future ... who knows? As SM becomes more accepted, the number of kinky readers can only increase! ♦

The October issue of "Hustler" has a positive article on SM classes in San Francisco. Despite the come-on on the cover: "Slave Chicks Make the Grade at S&M School," the article is quite informative. It focuses on Differences and QSM and also mentions The Society of Janus. The reporter, Kristina, is not a BDSM person, but in an interview with Karen Mendelsohn of QSM, she was very positive and enjoyed learning more about it. When asked if her name could be used in the article, Karen said, "Sure!" Now, she says, if any of her relatives read "Hustler," they'll know what she does.

On the other hand, Karen reports, she can truthfully say, "I read it for the articles." ♦



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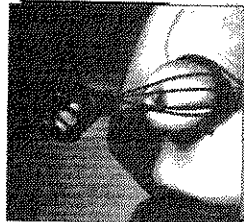
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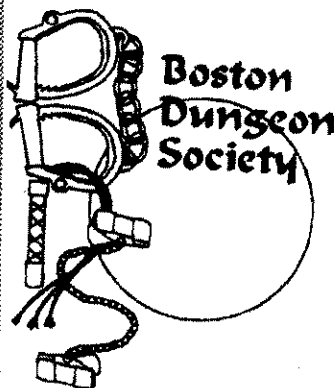
Sexual Art: X-Rated, but not porn. Transgressive images of explicit sex, featuring non-standard penetration. Can sexually explicit images be art? This book argues that the answer is yes! 54 images. See photograph at left. \$30.

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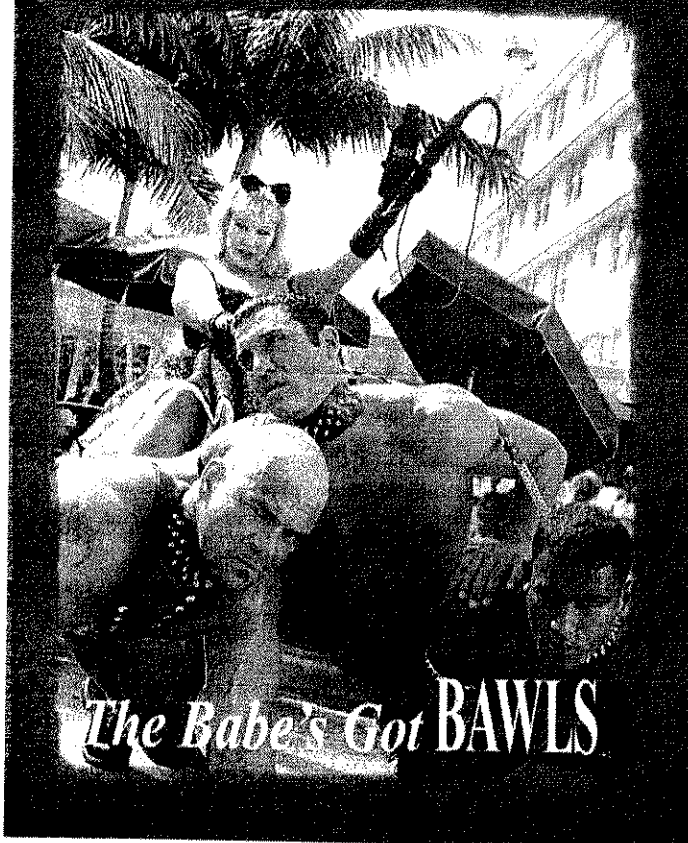
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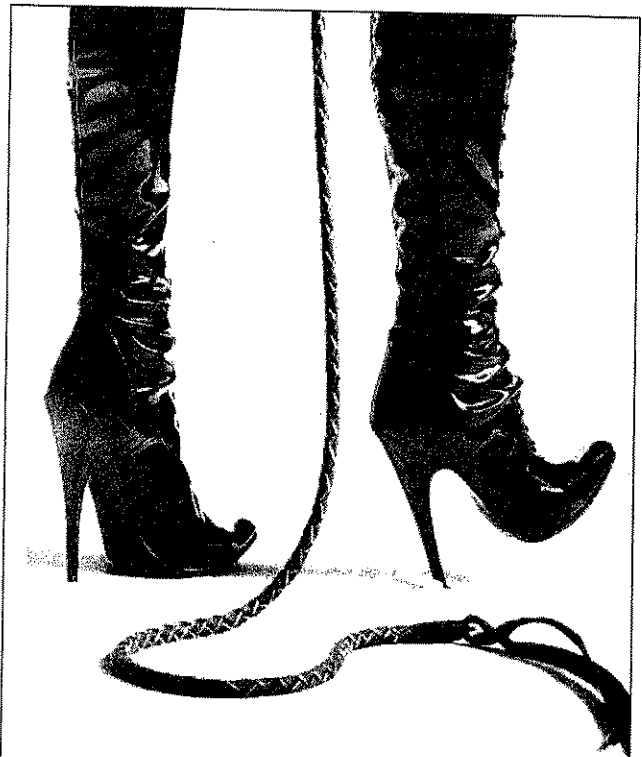
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Thanks to **J.D. Rabbit in NYC** for this one.



When I say no additives,

I mean no additives!

Spread across the centerfold of newspapers across the country, this **Winston** cigarette ad caught the attention of our readers and we got no less than four copies! Thanks to **Benedick, Paul H, Samuel and Kevin & Bonnie**. Perhaps we should invite Winston to advertise in *The Guardian*!

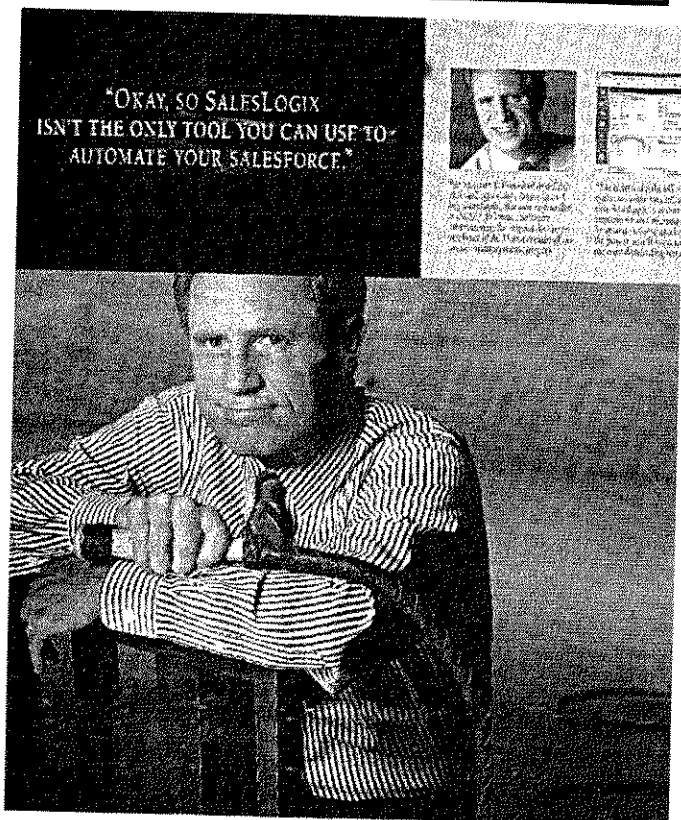
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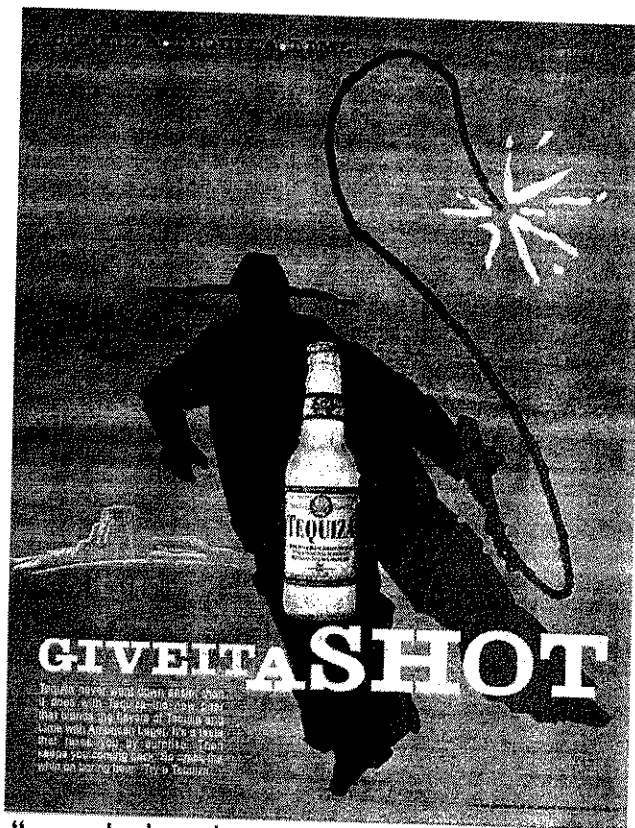
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Dorothea in CA got this giant post-card promoting a local radio station.

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and get your name in *The Guardian* and a Gift
Certificate too. (For Adam and Gillian's catalog or
back issue *Guardians*.)

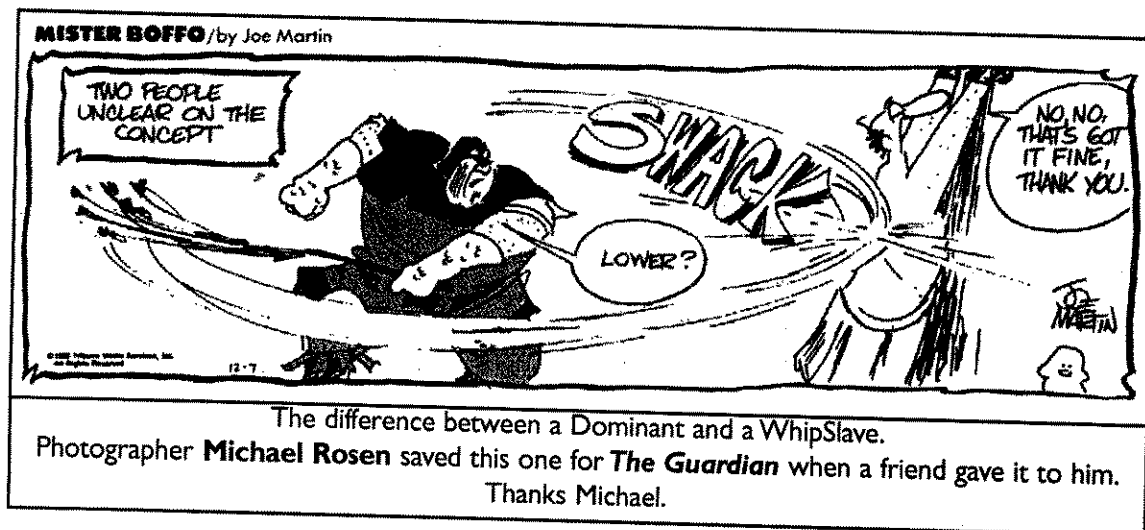


"But only if they ask nicely!" So this is what is going on in the Executive Suite! This gem from a computer magazine is also from **JD**. Thanks again.



"... crack the whip on boring beer." ... say the brewers of this beer spiked with tequila and lime! Without breaking the bottle.

Looks like all the beverage companies are using those Pakistani Specials this year. Ayee, Zorro!



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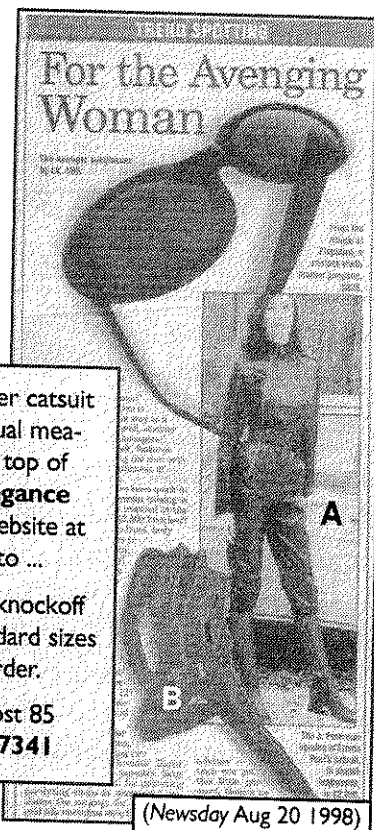


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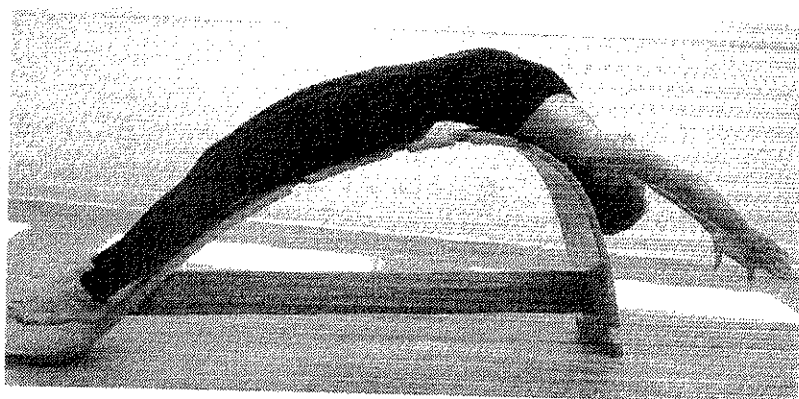
B) The **J. Peterman Co.** Vinyl Leatherette knockoff in 3 pieces, shown for a mere \$2,000. Standard sizes are 4, 6, and 8 but 10s and 12s on special order.

The sunglasses are by **Calvin Klein** and cost 85 bucks at **Sunglass Hut** stores. (800)-231-7341

(Newsday Aug 20 1998)

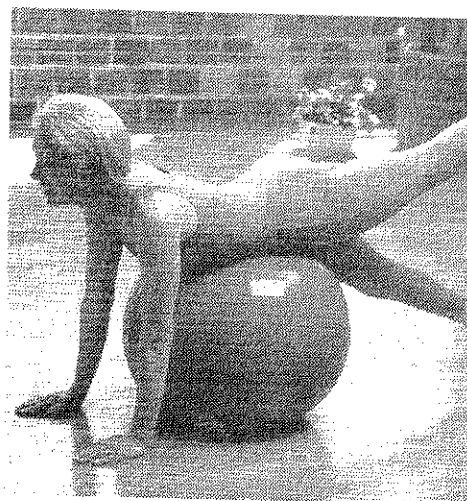
These outfits will last longer than the motion picture released in the Summer of '98!

The Harmony Company in Broomfield Colorado (1-800-869-3446) describes their line of products as being "IN HARMONY WITH THE EARTH." Their paper products are recycled and their cotton products are organically grown. Harmony's goods are pricey, but the quality is there ...and so is the novelty as in some of the more scene-usable items featured here.



The **WHALE** Therapeutic Bench is designed to stretch and elongate the spine ...just like the Inquisition's own Wheel and Rack.

However, a second look shows that this ingenious construction of steam-bent laminated wood has 4 strategically placed notches suitable for strap fastenings or rope ties to make a unique two-position flogging/spanking bench. It weighs only 20lbs and costs only \$380.



At a mere \$30, here's a "Subbie-Toy" that everyone can enjoy! Try to move forward on it while being paddled from behind! What's more, it comes in two sizes.

Professional Dominatrix Goes to Court in Bucks County, Pennsylvania Criminal Court

In the Fall of 1997, Michelene Nelson, known locally as "Mikie" or "Mike," befriended Teresa and her daughter when they were having some major problems. Mikie invited them to live with her as housemates. After four months, Teresa had not paid her share of household expenses and had run up high phone bills. She was told that if she didn't start contributing, she would have to leave. She began to abuse Mikie verbally — and physically, and when Mikie said she would call the police if Teresa didn't stop, Teresa threatened that she would accuse Mikie of prostitution in retaliation!



Mikie called the cops, — and later, so did Teresa. Teresa fed them a story that Mikie was not just a dominatrix but also a prostitute who had "forced" her to work with her. Police confiscated all of Mikie's dungeon toys and equipment, and a good portion of her clothes. The detective and the DA were thrilled to have such a juicy pre-election case! She was charged with prostitution, running a house of prostitution and having "lewd and lascivious devices".

(For prostitution, Mikie would have had to have had sex with her clients. She didn't. She did cane and flog folks, but that is *not* sex in PA. The "lewd devices" charge pertains to "public" acts, and all her activity was in the privacy of her dungeon.)

Police could not find anyone who would testify to having sex — just one person who said she caned him. Several folks said the police had tried to intimidate them into testifying.

Mikie, on the other hand, had found a number of witnesses who spoke of Teresa's former "revenge scenarios," bad character and unreliability. She also had people who would testify that what she engaged in was not sex. There was even a reporter who would testify that the detective grossly contradicted himself about the contents of lab reports.

Bucks County courts are descended from the Inquisition; the detective in charge gave false inflammatory stories to the paper; Teresa alleged that Mikie sent folks to beat her up. All in all, Mikie saw she had no chance of a fair trial and pled guilty to avoid going to jail.

From the **Philadelphia Inquirer**, August 20, 1998:
Metropolitan Area News in Brief

Accused 'dominatrix' pleads guilty to prostitution

A woman who advertised her services as a dominatrix and operated a sadomasochistic business in her garage pleaded guilty yesterday to prostitution and avoided a more serious conviction.

After losing a bid to suppress evidence that included whips and a spanking table, Michelene Nelson entered an agreement with prosecutors in which felony charges were dropped. She was sentenced to one year of probation and ordered to pay a \$2,500 fine after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor charge of prostitution.

"I was facing a lot of charges with very serious consequences," Nelson said after entering the plea. "The way the legal system is set up, this was my best bet."

Nelson, who advertised her business in personal columns as a "Discreet Dungeon operated by Madam Suzanne," charged \$150 per hour to engage in "sex acts" with clients, prosecutors said. She had faced up to seven years in prison if convicted on felony charges of promoting prostitution, said Deputy District Attorney Michelle Henry.

Mikie explains and adds an apology:

I pleaded guilty to prostitution. I apologize to the entire BDSM community for my lack of commitment to my beliefs. I lied in court to save myself from a long prison sentence. I never had sex for money or committed any type of prostitution. I drew a very conservative judge who denied all my pre-trial motions.

Also I was facing a total of 21 years in jail if convicted of *all* charges. I have my son to consider. The detective in charge of the case held an interview with a reporter and lied about crucial evidence.

The main witness accused me of sending people to beat her up.

With all this, I felt that I could not get a fair trial. I apologize for allowing the law to equate consensual BDSM with criminal activity. I had run out of money, courage and strength. <MisMikie@aol.com>

Oliver Jovanovic is Appealing Defense Has Submitted Appellate Brief

The defense in the the case of Oliver Jovanovic has brought an exhaustive and detailed appeal (of more than a hundred pages!) to the NYS Appellate Division addressing why the verdict in his rape/kidnapping felony case should be overturned. The NY County District Attorney will be filing a response this winter and oral arguments should be scheduled for spring of '99. Meanwhile, Jovanovic remains incarcerated, but has been moved to a more appropriate location.

The Guardian has learned that one of the key issues in the Appellate Brief of the defense, is that of misuse of the "rape shield" law. This NYS law was designed to protect the victim of a rape by disallowing testimony concerning the victim's previous lifestyle, activities or occupation. However, in a BDSM-based case, this discussion of past practices and experience is key to determining what the accused knew in advance of



the incident. In the Jovanovic case, the two had corresponded and discussed at some length their past experiences and present desires. Judge Wetzel barred any such testimony from the trial by either the defendant or his accuser.

Another key issue for BDSM people, although of no great moment to the defendant, is the inclusion in the brief of "consent as a defense." This will enable the submission of *amicus curiae* briefs on this issue by interested third parties, and several are anticipated. Inclusion of this item turns on the issue that the average juror would infer that (the average) person would not *consent* for instance, to, having hot wax dripped on her/him. Having the opportunity to introduce evidence that would support someone's consent would be key to a defense in any future BDSM case that reaches the courts.

The Guardian will continue to follow this case. ♦

Mikie

Editor's Note: Mikie has suggested that, if people really want to help her cause, and make a point for all of us, they send contributions of \$1.00 — *not to her*, but to the County Clerk to pay her fine!

Imagine the impact of 2500 letters continuing to arrive on his desk, each with a crisp new dollar bill!!

continued from pg 38

Send to:

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Encouraging Ruling in Oregon

On July 15, 1998 the Oregon State Court of Appeals decided that a single instance of "punishment" was insufficient grounds to issue an order of protection. However, Judge Loren L. Sawyer went further, adding the following footnote to her decision:

For example many ; if not most contact sports (i.e., boxing, football, rugby, hockey) can involve the infliction of significant pain and, indeed, lasting injury. We have no doubt that FAPA (Family Abuse Prevention Act) was not intended to reach such activities. On the other hand, notions of consent, agreement, or mutuality must be approached with particular care in domestic contexts. Words of consent can be spoken under circumstances in which the words are not a reflection of genuine volition and free will. That may be particularly true of patterns of abuse and battery in interpersonal relationships, which can involve complicated emotional dynamics that preclude free choice and voluntary behavior. We are not prepared to declare that whenever competent adults agree to engage in conduct that involves inflicting pain, the behavior necessarily constitutes abuse, as that term is typically used by the legislature. In this case, however, we need not decide, either statutorily or factually, where the line is.

Although this footnote does not address issues of "consent" as a defense against Assault, Prostitution or Breach of Peace offenses, it does create a citation in which all pain-inflicting behavior is acknowledged as not necessarily "abusive" within the meaning of Marital Relations Law. It may be a foundation upon which future cases can be built

The Guardian is grateful to Spencer Bergstedt Attorney at Law 2133 Third Ave Seattle WA 98121,

head of the National Leather Association's Law Project, for informing us of this case and providing a copy of the Court's decision, excerpts of which appear here with pronouns simplified for clarity:

FILED: July 15, 1998 IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF OREGON
LIA NIKOLAEVA BOLDT Respondent,

V. JAMES HARLAN BOLDT,
Appellant.
(95-DR-0441; CA A99286)
Appeal from Circuit Court,
Josephine County. Loren L.
Sawyer, Judge. Argued and sub-
mitted May 5, 1998.

Claudette L. Yost argued the
cause and filed the brief for
appellant. No appearance for
respondent. Before De Muniz,
Presiding Judge. and Haselton
and Linder. Judges. **Reversed.**

Prevailing party: Appellant
Costs — allowed,
payable by: Respondent



Petitioner (wife) successfully obtained a restraining order against respondent (husband) under the Family Abuse Prevention Act (FAPA) ... He appeals, challenging the sufficiency of the evidence to support the order. ... We recount only the facts essential to explain the basis for our decision.

At the time in question, they had been married for about three years. Prior to her immigration to this country from Russia, she corresponded with him. Beginning with that correspondence, continuing through their first year living together in this country, and then continuing throughout their three years of marriage, they had what

the parties agree is described accurately as a dominant-submissive relationship. She was considered a "slave girl" and he her "god" or "sovereign," roles that characterized certain aspects of their private, interpersonal relations.

She applied for the restraining order based on an incident that occurred in November of 1996: He was unhappy that she had chosen not to accompany him on a particular weekend trip.

As a result, when he returned home, he was physically and emotionally distant from her. She approached him, asking for his forgiveness, describing herself as a "bad slave girl" and suggesting that he "punish" her. The "punishment," which had been used before, was for him to strike her with a belt across the buttocks. He did so five times, inflicting considerable pain, but evidently no other injury. Afterwards, they hugged, were physically affectionate, and talked about feeling emotionally closer to each other. At the hearing on the FAPA petition, she described such practices and roles as part of the "customs" the parties had followed throughout their relationship.

**...they had what ...
is described
accurately as
a dominant-
submissive
relationship.**

Oregon Ruling

continued from pg 40

After November 1996, no similar physical "punishment" occurred again.

They continued to live with together until April 1997, at which point they separated in anticipation of a dissolution. One day before she would no longer be able to seek a restraining order based on the November incident, ... she filed a petition to restrain him from having any contact with her and their two-year-old son. The court issued a restraining order. He then requested a hearing to contest. ... At the hearing, the parties stipulated that dissolution proceedings were underway and that all issues regarding custody and visitation with the parties' son should be resolved in that case. At the conclusion of the hearing, the trial court denied his objections to the restraining order.

A Court may issue a restraining order upon a showing that the petitioner, "has been the victim of abuse committed by the respondent within 180 days preceding the filing of the petition," and that "there is an immediate and present danger of further abuse to the petitioner."

The husband argues that the conduct in this case is not "abuse" under the statute, because it was consensual. He also argues that a restraining order should not have been issued because there was an inadequate showing that she was in immediate and present danger of the conduct recurring. We need not decide whether and under what circumstances FAPA reaches pain-inflicting activity engaged in by competent, consenting adults. Even assuming that he "abused" her within the meaning of the statute, her additional burden was to establish by clear and convincing evidence that she was in immediate and present danger of further abuse. ... (an injunction is an extraordinary remedy which should not be granted except on clear and convincing proof). The record is devoid of evidence to carry that burden. At no point did petitioner testify or even suggest that she feared a repetition of the conduct in question or that it was part of a cycle of abuse that was likely to repeat itself and from which she could not extricate herself. Nor are we satisfied from the circumstances as a whole that, by a clear and convincing standard, such a conclusion follows inferentially.

In the absence of evidence on that point, the restraining order should have been vacated. ❖

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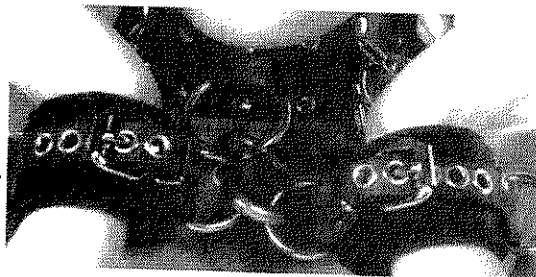
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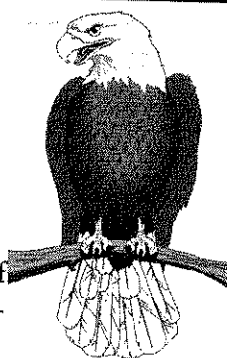
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The Eagle ~ Endangered ?



pickpocket activity in the bar, and the presence of men who loiter in the bar scavenging half-finished drinks left by other patrons. While some regular customers in The Eagle are black, as is at least one of the bartenders, so are many of the men suspected of picking pockets and scavenging drinks.

Ephen Colter, who works for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, was quoted as saying he visits The Eagle about once a month, "tagging along with friends." On Sept. 4, visiting the bar alone for the first time, Colter was approached by an Eagle employee who told him he had to either buy a drink or leave. "It was a really horrible feeling being singled out," Colter said. "I want the people of color to stand up and say that this is our space too." While he has not yet filed a complaint and says, "My objective is not to have the bar closed, but to have the policy changed," he also says that if the meeting between the two groups and the Eagle's owner does not result in a change of policy, he would "file a complaint in a heartbeat."

The bar's owner replied that he would not respond to what he characterized as a "demand" by Tom Duane that he meet with "Duane, Reed, The New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, Gay Men of African Descent and other community groups," to resolve the issue, until his lawyer can accompany him to the meeting.

In a phone interview with *The Guardian*, John Weis said "There's got to be a way to stop crime and protect all the bar's customers. If we lose this bar, it would be a lose-lose situation for the leather and gay communities. Having a posted 'one drink minimum' signs is a step in the right direction." ❖

The New York Eagle, a 28-year old landmark NYC Leather bar, the oldest of the Eagles, and mentioned in Larry Townsend's *Leatherman's Handbook*, is under fire for alleged racial discrimination. According to City Councilmember Phil Reed and two other men, black patrons who do not buy drinks are more likely to be asked to leave the premises than others. A delegation headed by Councilman Tom Duane, in whose district the Eagle is located, and another headed by GMSMA President, John Weis, intend to meet with Eagle owner Jack Modica, with

the purpose of having the policy changed.

In a telephone interview with *The Guardian*, Modica said that there is a buy-or-leave policy in effect, and that such policies are permitted by the State Liquor Authority regulations. While admitting that people who, "look as if they don't fit in" ... men in suits or sweaters, for example, are confronted more often than men in Leather regalia. However he denied that race was a determining factor.

The one-drink policy, Modica asserts, is due solely to an increase in

OH, THE GAMES PEOPLE PLAY.....



Updates on other cases that *The Guardian* is following:

Scanlon vs GMSMA et al

In New York, Chris Scanlon has won his copyright infringement case. Both sides appeared at a hearing before Federal Judge Constance Baker Motley in September and await a determination of award of legal costs. The judge has agreed to hear the defamation part of the suit as well after the current matter is adjudicated.

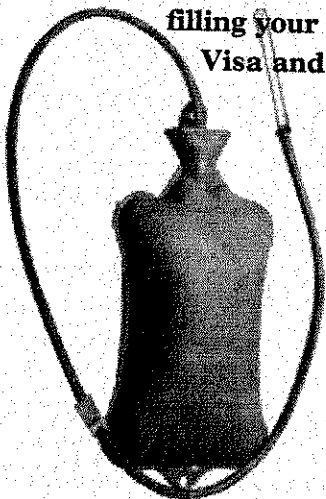
Carter Stevens vs Hearst

The Hearst Corporation has shifted ground(s)—and are no longer claiming that the existence of “Carter Stevens Presents Cosmopolitan Domination” violates the trademark of “Cosmopolitan” Magazine (popularly known as “Cosmo”), but the *very presence* of “Cosmopolitan Domination” *dilutes* the trademark of Hearst’s “Cosmo” by subjecting it to “contempt and disrespect.” Carter Stevens is currently in the process of bringing motions to compel disclosure. It seems that Hearst says that they are going to bring suit, but no case has actually been brought as yet.

Stay tuned, folks!

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An Eti-Quiz for Tops, Bottoms ~ ... and those who know them

First of a Series

by Carolyn and Steve Vakesh

Next to safety, issues of etiquette probably provoke more acrimonious discussion than any other BDSM topic. Everyone knows enough to ask before they touch, negotiate before they play, and to clean up afterwards. Yet the etiquette and play rules for parties just keep getting longer and longer and are covering increasingly obvious situations. Interactions within scenes are extremely structured, bound by safewords and watched by dungeon monitors, and yet problems occur regularly.

Interacting with BDSM people outside of structured scenes presents a whole new layer of etiquette issues. This is complicated even further if you are dealing not with a single individual, but with a couple, especially a couple that is bound by some form of contract. How then do you deal with those delicate situations that come up in public when dealing with bdsm folks?

Insisting that your way of doing things is the right way, indeed the only way, will get you nowhere as the BDSM community is now so large and diffuse that no center of authority can possibly reach everywhere and bend everyone to its will. The days of a single, universal code of behavior enforced by an old guard oligarchy are long gone.

The following situations and faux pas are culled from our own experiences and observations, and are offered more to provoke discussion than to explicate a strict system of etiquette.

Yes, we've witnessed virtually all of these events. The others were reported to us by normally reliable witnesses. Some were committed by people new to BDSM, others by people with long experience. We offer solutions to each of the questions we pose. For some the proper response is fairly obvious, but for others there are many correct responses, or perhaps none at all. Life is like that sometimes.

Parties

1) You are a dominant. Someone mistakes you for a submissive and orders you to your knees. Do you:

- a) Pull out your whip and demand the miscreant drop his pants for "six of the best?"
- b) Castigate him for making such an obvious error?
- c) Decide it is easier to accept the role of bottom?
- d) Explain that you are actually dominant (tonight).
- e) Correct the mistake and refuse to say anything further.

2) You are a submissive and someone mistakes you for a dominant and asks you to dominate her. Do you:

- a) Agree, since as a submissive you should seek to serve the needs of others.
- b) Refuse, pointing out that you're obviously submissive.
- c) Explain that you're bottom but that you will top her if she later reciprocates.
- d) Refuse, and explain that you are also a submissive and looking for a Top play with.

3) You are negotiating before playing with a dominant who demands to know the details of every BDSM encounter you have had and also wants a complete report on your childhood including possible abuse. How much are you obligated to tell?

a) Only committed BDSM relationships?

b) Only situations that are similar to the one you are currently negotiating?

c) Everything except the names of your partners?

d) Only your limits, physical problems, and desires?

e) Nothing?

Answers and Scoring:

1. a-0 b-0 c-1 d-5 e-2

2. a-0 b-1 c-4 d-5

3. a-1 b-2 c-0 d-5 e-3

If you scored:

13-15: You are Party Perfect! Your perfect manners make you welcome at any gathering.

5-12: Great Guest. You don't

make the big mistakes but BDSM requires a greater level of subtlety than ordinary party situations. Study up.

0-4 Party Pooper! Did you fail this on purpose? It won't get you any extra spanks from us. Make sure your party manners shine before your next play party.

1) Answer: This situation is unfortunately all too common, but forthright courtesy is the best response. It is especially troubling that some men assume that all women are submissive. Tell him that he is mistaken and that you are actually dominant. If he continues to be a jerk then simply leave. Under no circumstances should you be insulting. Nor are you required to remake yourself for his fantasy.

2) Answer: You would think this was a simple situation, but actually submissives often find themselves under intense pressure to play in both roles. After all, if

they're "really submissive" they will do what they are told. No one is under any obligation to play with anyone they meet at a party. The best way to handle unwelcome attention is to thank the person for their interest, then politely decline, explaining that you are a bottom. On the other hand, at events with a surplus of bottoms and not many tops, the *quid pro quo* of, "you beat me and I'll beat you," works quite well, but is hardly a requirement.

3) Answer: Captured soldiers need give only their name, rank and serial number. You need only give information that has an immediate bearing on the prospective scene: your limits, physical problems, and desires. Dominance does not bring with it a right to invade someone's privacy. The proper way to refuse, is to say, "I'm sorry, I don't feel comfortable giving you that information."

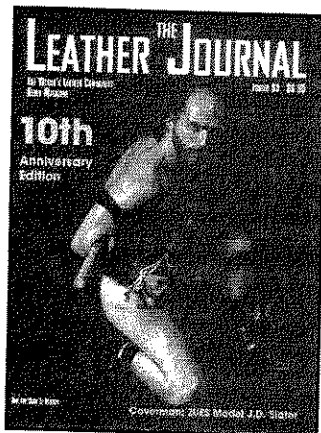
More Q and A next time.

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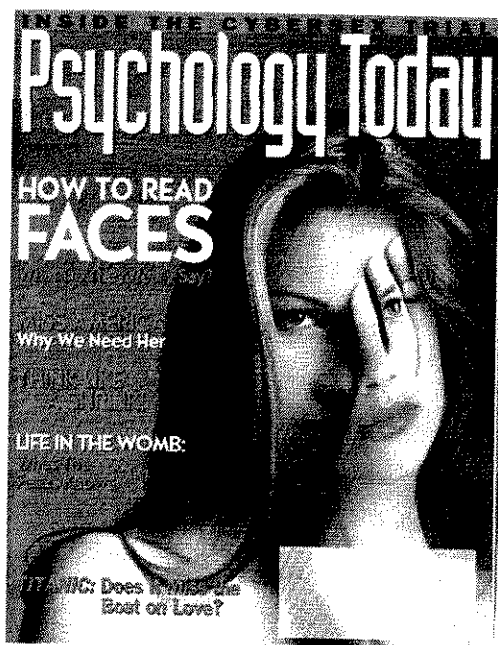
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MAGAZINE MENTIONS



They are not ALL out to get Us!!

"Inside the Cybersex Trial"

Psychology Today

October 1998 \$7.50

Back Issues: 49 E. 21st St. 11th Fl. NY NY 10010

Writer Joan Ullman belies the myth that all "mainstream" authorities are on a witch hunt against us BDSMers. Her very fair and insightful article about the much publicized Jovanovic "Cyber-SM Torture Case," puts more emphasis on the fact that the two par-

ties involved met through cyber-mailings. After a brief discussion of some differences between Real World and Cyber interpersonal communication, Ms Ullman gives this summary of the case:

"Oliver Jovanovic ... was sentenced to 15 years to life for kidnapping and sexually assaulting a woman he met ... on the Internet.

"The verdict came as a shock to courtroom observers, who unlike the jury, had access to the uncensored and highly titillating exchanges between Jovanovic and his accuser ... By ignoring 'Net dynamics' and accepting his e-mail postings as pure representations of truth rather than admixtures of fantasy, the verdict exposed the failure of many traditional institutions to grasp the psychological upheaval wrought by cyberculture.

"Legal maneuvering stripped the victim's e-mail of its many references to her interest and participation in bondage and domination ..."

What then follows is a concise but thorough narrative of the facts of the case, liberally sprinkled, (if you'll excuse the expression) with observations that leave no doubt Ms. Ullman is very certain of the injustice of the verdict and the sentence --- although she obviously has no high opinion of the psychological health of either of the protagonists. Her psychological *post-mortem* barely mentions that either of these people could be considered "SadoMasochists," however. Instead, she focuses on the personalities of the individuals involved as revealed by their writings. Her wider concern is with the Internet itself:

"The Internet definitely has its charms, But unless there is a better understanding of how it is changing the dynamics of social life, there may well be a lot more court in modern courtship."

There isn't a word of blame for "kinky people" or their "hedonistic lifestyles."

Even if you *are* paranoid, there are people who are *NOT* out to get you. ♦

Mitch Kessler

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Sporting tasteful graphics, an intelligent navigation system and the internet's largest and best-organized sexuality library, this site is poised to revolutionize sex education worldwide for people who believe or suspect that sexual pleasure can be inherently valuable and good.

Those accustomed to browsing for sexual information on the net may also be surprised to find *no* advertisements of any kind at www.sexuality.org, nor any fees, nor any "credit card checks," etc.

It contains significant SM content and the organization behind it has sponsored close to a dozen SM workshops over the past four years. Organizers say the site has been successful in bridging the worlds between the SM community and vanilla folk, and in opening a dialogue between them.

Log on to the site, and enter the word BDSM in the first search engine dialog you come to, and a world of information and networking will open to you ♦

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Le Chateau de Roissy

One of the best known Dungeons in the USA

by Charles Lonberger

Inside a grey and burgundy brick building exterior in Los Angeles, the elegant ambience of Roissy awaits, recreated from the pages of *Histoire D'O*. Once inside, the rich scent of leather and plush furnishings lead to a beautiful concierge who waits to greet and direct you. On the walls are large copies of Robert Blue's famous Betty Page series, some autographed by the icon herself. The seats are of the most luxurious leather, the predominating color scheme is black with shades of red.

This remarkable place has several dungeons - the Campbell Room

(with St. Catherine's Cross), the Roissy Room (with a schoolgirl desk and suspension), the Inquisition Room, Bastille Room, John Willie Room, and Sir James' fabulously spacious and theatrical chamber. Another, a cavernous dungeon named in honor of Betty Page, is a theatre room and seats up to 45 guests comfortably. There is also a final dungeon that is exclusively the domain of the Chateau's Senior Mistress and tailored to her demands.

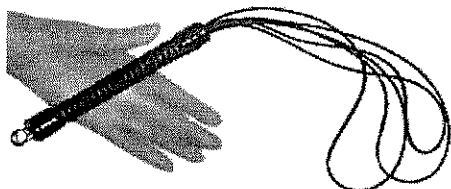
Lining the halls of the private chambers are a plethora of whips, paddles, crops, canes, cuffs, clamps,

et al. Cold beverages, snacks and hot coffee can always be brought to you by a submissive at your beck and call. In addition to the dungeons are specialized rooms, such as a cross-dressing area with make-up, attire and tons of mirrors. A cell sits at the far end of one corridor for those who require confinement and isolation. There are smoking (and non-smoking) lounges where public humiliation and exhibitionism transpire.

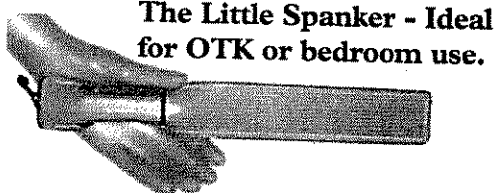
Further, what makes the Chateau so completely unique is the fact that it is the only fully licensed club of its kind in the United States. This proper licensing protects the privacy of its guests, and one need never fear for a police raid. It also means that the complete nudity, abundantly on display, is legally vouchsafed.

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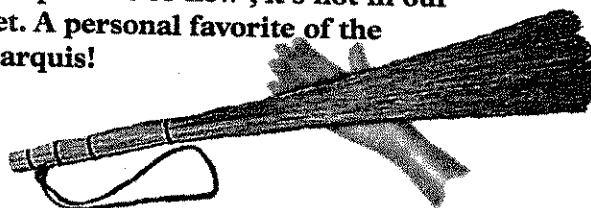


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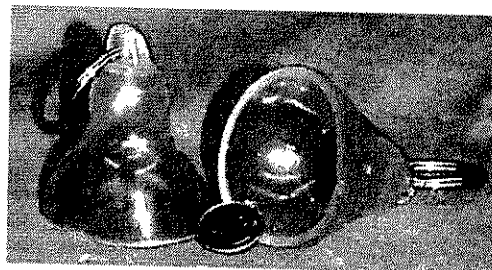


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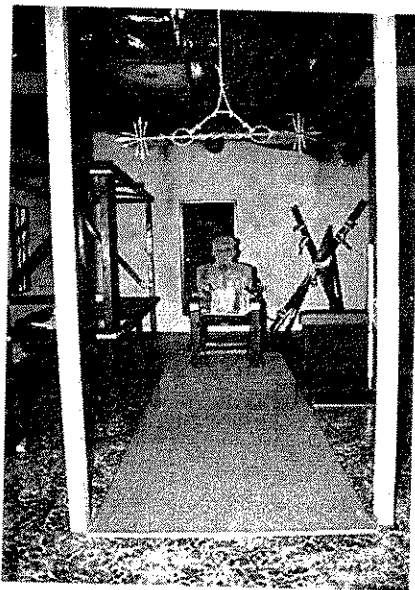
These are just a few of the many items in our catalog. Call today. Printed version \$5.00 or browse the electronic version at our web at no charge. Our catalog is **FREE** with a *Guardian* subscription.



"... but we don't take American Express!"



The primary reason for this rare, official sanction is the respect that its founder and CEO, Sir James Hillier, has earned in the communi-



ty. The Chateau was established in 1976, with the intent to create a real S&M world with nothing false about it, where one need not "hide", rather than to turn a quick buck. Personally, Mr. Hillier (renowned as the author of *Les Chroniques de L'Esclave*, about the B&D vacation spot, Scalife Island) has assisted UCLA's Dr. Stoller in his academic work and is frequently consulted by the LA Sheriff's Department. Both the courts and the media (from Time magazine to Phil Donahue) have publicly sought and validated his opinion, and all have benefited

by both his discretion and his knowledge.

The manner in which Mr. Hillier treats his staff, providing them with private restrooms and showers, large dressing rooms, and a gym, accounts for their years-long loyalty to the safe, respectful environment he

has created. It also accounts for the legendary quality of his staff. Sir James, who accepts applications for submissive, switches, and dominant positions, selects his staff for intelligence, hygiene and ethics plus the attitude and body language that betrays one is truly into the scene.

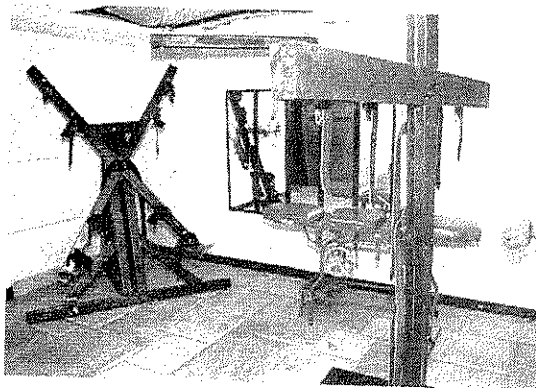
First visits by guests are always complimentary, and staff and guests always interview to openly discuss fantasies and to ensure the true compatibility that endures and is the basis for a long relationship.

The Chateau is open for your visit from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., 7 days a week, 360 days a year.

For those in the US unable to actually visit The Chateau in person,

a new interactive website has been opened at www.bdsmchambers.com where you can command your slaves live and in person via the internet. The quality of the images is startling, as if you were actually present in one of the chambers.

If you can make the journey, on Dec. 31, The Chateau presents a special Bondage New Years Eve Party. This event will be limited to 20 couples; early reservations are



suggested. You may do so by calling and let Anna, Morgan, Leann and the others take you to this exclusive world where the dream that you wish will come true.

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Coming Full Circle

by Fred Payne

I attended my first Society of Janus meeting, an orientation. First the current members in attendance were asked what an organization like Janus meant to them. Then one by one the new members were asked the same question.

It was surprising to hear how many people stated that they had BDSM fantasies since childhood. Lets not blame (or thank) poor Mom, please. This kind of support group is very important to us all.

However, what happens when one partner in a two partner relationship has been a BDSM devotee since before the brain remembers and the other has the public perception of SM? Good relationships are an interesting challenge in a "normal life"; throw in BDSM and the challenge becomes a test of true love and friendship.

It took me about 14 years to reach the same level as my partner or vice/visa, to come full circle. I'm a natural submissive and my wife became my mistress. Are mistresses

born or made? Although for years she did her best to be the mistress of my dreams, all she was getting out of this part of our relationship was a sore arm!

After many months of sometimes painful (not that kind!) discussion, we decided to have a session (we used to call them games) with a professional dominatrix. I spent weeks checking out the web sites, before we agreed on which one to call. We wanted someone who was a lifestyle Mistress and worked with couples. Finally after many nervous tries I called. Surprise! A real person answered! She was very supportive and wanted to talk to both of us. To break the ice and to get to know each other, we planned a day sailing trip the day before the "big night"

My Mistress made me nervous with the money she spent on a new outfit. However she looked beautiful and really added to the session. We arrived at the professional dominatrix's house, which had multiple rooms for dungeons. We all talked for awhile and then I was left alone

in a dungeon while the Mistresses schemed!

It was a beautiful experience because I finally figured out how to come full circle. You have to build up the friendship, the trust, go through the pain with beauty and warmth and end with love and sensual companionship.

The experience is a very spiritual one and those who have had a session that takes you on a out of the body journey know this feeling.

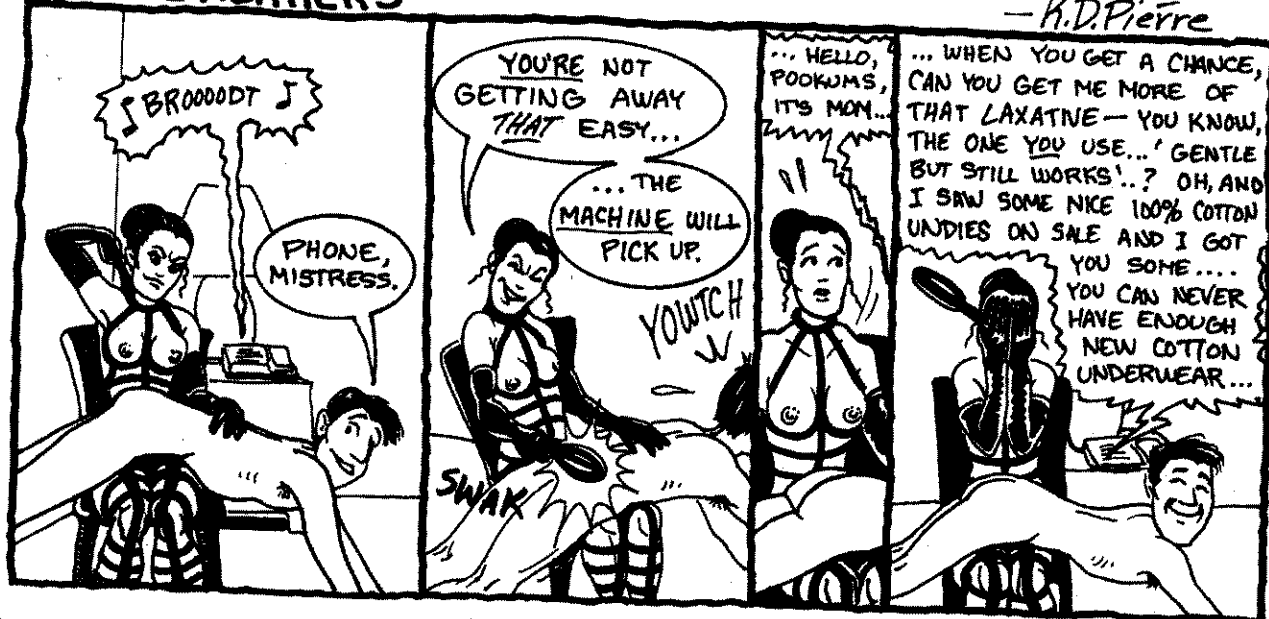
That's what I got, but what did my wife/mistress get, beside a full time slave. She has gained a tremendous amount of self-confidence inside and outside our relationship. She has discovered that she doesn't have to worry about who she is or how other people perceive her to be, she is a Mistress.

Most of all, we both have learned to have more trust in each other and a stronger love than you could imagine.

I hope to those of you that are reaching for certain goals or a new high, that you come full circle as you will never find a true loving relationship going in a straight line. ♦

Fred Payne and his lady live in California but you can write him here at The Guardian.

MOODBREAKERS



— K.D. Pierre

Writer's Guidelines -- for *THE SANDMUTOPIAN GUARDIAN* a Journal of BDSM Realities

The *Guardian* is first and foremost a practical guide to safe and enjoyable exotic eroticism. Think of it as a combination of *Popular Mechanics*™ and *Consumer's Digest*™ for kinky sex. Our ambition is to become the independent "Journal of Record" of BDSM. Our readership includes people of *all* sexual orientations, gender identities and power polarities. While readers' experience levels range from, "just thinking about it," to "lifestyle devotee," we want to be especially mindful of, and useful to, the *less* experienced reader.

The Guardian is not following anyone's Party Line nor is it aligned with any particular demographic sub-grouping. We *will not refuse* a piece because of the "political" point of view it reflects or (to the limit of Statutory Libel) because "someone" will "be offended."

We take the broadest possible view of what constitutes appropriate material

*EQUIPMENT *LEGAL and SOCIAL ISSUES

*RELATIONSHIPS *ROLES *SCENARIOS,

*TECHNIQUES *CRAFTS and SKILLS

HEALTH and SAFETY CONCERNS

Almost anything touching on BDSM, Fetish, Power Exchange, might be a successful article. We also buy "filler" pieces: humorous anecdotes, tips and hints, cartoons, etc..

Work can be submitted typewritten, or as an ASCII file in PC or MAC format, or in an email message. Please *do not send* text formatted in a program. (eg. Word, Word Perfect)

Payment: We pay — not lavishly, but respectably. Please contact us for particulars, including special situations, illustrations, and reprints. Contributors get a copy of the magazine in which their article appears.

We buy one-time serial rights with a one-time reprint provision. Payment is on acceptance, and we try to respond to all submissions within sixty days. SASE required for return.

Style and Content: Factual material, organized sequentially is the first concern, "style" is a bonus. Remember the "5 W's" of Journalism: Who, What, Where, When, and how — the "How to Write a Good Term Paper" handbooks? That's the idea.

Citations are Good. If you reference a product or publication, there should be an address and/or phone number, too. Appended Resource Lists are always welcome.

It is probably better to put too many words on paper, than to skip over "the obvious." Clarifying illustration, even crude hand drawings, is always useful.

About "PC Language": Writers needn't feel that they have to obscure their own orientations, alignments or biases — and gender specific pronouns *are* used when a specific person's gender is known, or gender is relevant. Otherwise, we like a style which de-emphasizes gender, polarity, and orientation. We have no problem with the "he/she, her/him" style used in government documents, the "false plural" form, or even the made up pronouns like "(s)he" and "co." Please be mindful that half of humanity is *not* male and at least 10% of it is *not* heterosexual. Try for inclusiveness.

About "Safety": We assume that our readers are adults and that we, and they, reached maturity by not being "stupid or reckless." *The Guardian* focuses on the pleasure and sensual nature of BDSM and *less* on the dangers, perils and negatives of BDSM play. If there are some safety or health issues not readily apparent, they may need to be included. But we will not belabor the obvious.

DEADLINES:

The next issue is #32 with a deadline in mid-December for January publication. If you have an article that you want to be considered for this issue, call or write to let us know — the sooner the better.

If you miss the deadline, we will still be buying and paying as we go. In effect, we've got to worry about deadlines ... you can just work to your own schedule.

ARTWORK AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists and illustrators are invited to send samples of their work by way of self-introduction. Almost all illustration will be commissioned for particular articles. Possible cover art, centerfold photo-essays and folios will be considered on their own merits. We want to project enjoyment, respect, safe-and-sane practice, and consensuality — or at least *not* communicate the reverse.

We are *not* in the market for "eye candy," rigid bondage/genitorture studies or depictions of atrocities. Work may be submitted in MAC or WINDOWS disk formats. If photographs are accepted, we may ask to use the negative for proper reproduction — and, of course, Model Releases in keeping with the law.